

THE TIMES

Mr Muskie appointed US Secretary of State

Actor Edmund Muskie was named Secretary of State yesterday, in succession to Mr Cyrus Vance who resigned over last week's abortive attempt to rescue the American hostages from Iran. Mr Muskie is 66 and it is thought that he easily win confirmation from the Senate.

taunch Democrat to succeed Mr Vance

Patrick Brogan
London, April 29

Edmund Muskie, of course, found themselves treated with a brusqueness unusual among American politicians. He was born in Maine in 1914. He was elected Governor there in 1954, a novel event since the state had previously been solidly Republican. He entered the Senate after winning an election in 1958, and only once, in 1976, was he ever in any danger of losing his seat.

He is, by descent, a Polish Catholic and the people of Maine found that his rigid morals and honesty suited them well.

Mr Muskie's great success on the budget committee has arisen from his ability to work out and to promote compromises between conflicting interests. He is a lawyer by profession but, unlike his predecessor, has not practised very much.

He is a member of the Senate foreign relations committee, and thus has a working knowledge of foreign affairs; but he has not specialized in them since the Vietnam war. On the other hand, he is a man of considerable political weight, and will certainly make his mark in the State Department. He will be his own man.

He has presumably given convincing assurances of his loyalty to President Carter, but will not be the same sort of self-effacing public official as Mr Cyrus Vance, or as Mr Warren Christopher, the Deputy Secretary of State, who was Mr Vance's favourite for the succession.

Mr Christopher is Acting Secretary now, and will keep that position until Mr Vance is confirmed.

Carter criticism, page 8

American generals say US about to attack

By Alanaway
April 29

American chiefs of staff he armed forces today said Carter intended another attack on the soon. They ordered all to observe "extreme

statement broadcast by radio the chiefs of the United States had marching troops of its Bridge to Bahrainer suitable areas".

the military reported after between Iranian Air Force planes Sea of Oman. They two American F14 jets flying from the aircraft units, fired an un-Iranian warplane.

iranian jets were scrambled when they reached the

scene the American aircraft flew off, the armed forces chiefs said.

In Washington officials said no firing took place during the "routine intercept" of the Iranian aircraft, a C130 transport, which had come too close to the Nimitz. They said it was the American aircraft which escorted the C130 back to Iranian airspace.

In their latest statement the Iranian chiefs of staff said that the fall of the United States rescue mission last Friday, the American election, and the resignation of Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, made it clear that President Carter intended to launch "another" plot" against Iran.

"There is no doubt that he has another project planned and ready for execution, to compensate for the defeat of his previous plan, regain his

Commons praise for Thatcher firmness

By Fred Emery
Mrs Margaret Thatcher savoured a rare triumph in the Commons yesterday for her refusal to compromise with her European Community partners. She united Government and Opposition benches and drew expressions of pride and thanks from such hawks of the EEC as Mr Enoch Powell and the Rev. Ian Paisley.

The lone dissenter was Mr Russell Johnston, the Labour Liberal, who said that her abrasive manner had damaged Europe and isolated Britain. The Prime Minister was tempted to crow only against Mr Johnston; she had been pretty successful, whatever her methods in getting an offer of £850m reduction in our £1,20m EEC budget contribution, she retorted.

But for the rest she tried to present the breakdown at the Luxembourg summit in conciliatory terms: all had compromised and they had come near to solution. They now had six weeks before the next EEC summit in Venice for the Italian President of the Council of Ministers to make "strenuous efforts to complete a settlement".

She almost made it sound like a slight hitch, until she unholstered some of what she called our "weapons". These were that "there will be no further agreements on other major matters in the Community unless our own particular problem in the Community is settled".

Refusing agreement for the agricultural price review was not the only action to be taken. There was still no overall budget for the Community, she remarked, and not likely to be set until Britain's problem was settled.

This does not mean that Britain is bringing the Community to a standstill; it is said in Whitehall.

Some negotiating advantage is seen in maintaining confusion over what the Government will do. But two things are being asserted. Since the EEC partners sought "linkage" between the budget and other outstanding problems, the British Government will not now settle any of them until the budget issue is settled.

As for the other leaders' refusal to have the British contribution discussed at the next summit, the Government would like nothing better provided it can all be settled by the Council of Ministers. However, this is seen as unrealistic; and Mrs Thatcher, as she said repeatedly, is now hectoring the Italians to use the remaining six weeks before Venice to "complete" the deal.

Her main point on the budget settlement was that a one-year arrangement would not have prevented the issue recurring every year. So it was better to wait until they could agree on a budget, where, Mrs Thatcher feels, she has already compromised by cutting back her demands to three years.

Parliamentary report, page 6; EEC partners stunned, page 7; Leading article, page 17

We should make Iran join the EEC - that would teach them a thing or two.

Leading article, page 17



The Queen, in the first state visit to Switzerland by a British monarch, inspecting an infantry guard of honour outside the Palace of the Parliament in Berne yesterday.

Railmen accept 20% pay increase in revised single stage deal

By Donald MacIntyre
Labour Reporter

British Rail yesterday overcame the setback which last week prevented agreement to its pay and productivity offer when the three rail unions accepted a restructured deal yielding the same increase of 20 per cent.

The National Union of Railways' executive, which rejected an offer last week of 16 per cent from April 21 and a further four per cent from June 30 yesterday by 25 votes to three voted to accept a single payment of the full 20 per cent from May 5.

The new formula, reached after six hours of talks on Monday, brings forward by a month to May 31, the date by which the unions are expected to agree a programme for negotiating the wide range of efficiency measures which the BR board is seeking.

Subject only to final endorsement by the white collar Transport and Salaried Staffs' Association, 180,000 railway workers will receive, from next week, pay increases adding between £9.80 and £17.75 on basic rates at a cost to the board of

£220m over the financial year 1980-81.

As in the previous offer, BR is insisting not only on commitment to its long-term plan for improving productivity but, in return for the pay deal, "specific action" on the items which it attaches most urgency: reduction of spare marshalling yards, catch-up on the reduction of the freight and parcels business, and a cut in administration costs.

On the present establishment that could mean a notional cut of up to 30,000 jobs; but that includes what the unions say is 12,000 unfilled vacancies, while the board believes declines in some area can be compensated for by increases in jobs in others as business improves.

The agreement provides that there shall be no compulsory dismissals.

Mr Sidney Weighill, general secretary of the NUR, made it clear that with a progressive decline in working hours and overtime, now 12 hours a week, he saw no reason why there should be a decline in railway employment, although some workers would have to move jobs.

He said: "The board will have to pay step by step for the changes they want. If they do not pay for them they will not get them."

The deal will give a minimum earnings level of £65.60 a week in the industry. The London allowance, payable from April 21, will bring that level in the capital up to £75. The basic rates for railmen will increase from £48.95 to £58.75 and his average earnings will go to £101.20 a week.

The train driver's basic rate will go from £78.20 to £93.85, with new average earnings of £137.42, and that of a top grade signalman from £88.85 to £106.60, with new average earnings of £175.64.

The very top grade covered by the agreement, senior supervisors will have new average earnings of £202.27.

The working week will be reduced by an hour to 39 from November 1981 for manual grades and to 37 for salaried grades.

From next January all staff will receive a minimum of four weeks holiday after two years' service.

\$500m loans to prevent collapse of US bank

From Anthony Hilton
New York, April 29

In the largest bank rescue undertaken by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation the troubled First Pennsylvania Bank has been loaned \$500m (nearly £220m) to prevent its possible collapse.

First Pennsylvania, based in Philadelphia, has 69 offices in the United States and branches around the world, including London. It is the 23rd largest bank in the United States having slipped from 20th position two years ago. It is also Pennsylvania's largest bank.

According to its last balance sheet it has deposits of \$5,300m and assets of \$8,400m and \$74,000 deposit accounts.

The rescue package consists of a \$1,000m line of credit plus \$325m in loans from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and \$175m in loans from 22 banks. The loans are for five years with the biggest slice coming from Citibank, although the exact amount has not been disclosed. A further \$25m is being provided by local banks within the state.

Some \$700m of short-term money has already been loaned by the Federal Reserve Board to First Pennsylvania and this will continue to be available as needed.

According to Mr George Butler, First Pennsylvania's chairman and chief executive, "the bank's liquidity would have been seriously threatened" without the rescue package.

The bank has had managerial and trading problems for several years but has been generally profitable. However, in the first quarter of this year it lost \$6.4m, of which \$1.4m arose from losses on securities. In the same period last year the bank made a profit of \$5.7m.

The bank's loss primarily reflects the mismatch of the bank's fixed rate assets and interest sensitive liabilities.

Mr Butler said: "What this means is that between 1976 and 1979 it invested in both developing and carrying out a

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Continued on page 4

HOME NEWS

Employers seeking to sue unions for financial loss through May 14 'day of action' protest

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The Government has been asked to intervene legally in the TUC's forthcoming "day of action" so that employers could sue trade unions for financial losses caused by industrial disruption.

Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, was yesterday pressed by the Institute of Directors "to make an early statement to clarify the legal position to employers". The British Industry could lose up to £315m in lost production on May 14, the employers argue, and that burden should be borne by the unions rather than companies.

Mr Walter Goldsmith, director-general of the institute, called for the legal statement in a letter to the Attorney General. He told a meeting of the institute yesterday: "The day of action constitutes a political campaign against the Conservative Government."

"Now by the furthest stretch of the imagination can May 14 be called a trade dispute. Trade unions and their officers are immune from action in tort for damages or an injunction only when they cause injury in contemplation or furtherance of a

trade dispute". They should think very carefully before exposing their members' funds to risk.

The Attorney General should warn the TUC of the danger to which trade unions are exposed while there is still time for the day of action to be called off."

TUC leaders are aware that the industrial action which they have called in protest at Capitalist policies on the economy and labour law reform may entail a risk of litigation.

The TUC had nothing to add last night to a speech made by Mr Len Murray, the general secretary, five days ago, when he asked engineering employers in the West Midlands: "Are the critics challenging the right of workers to take time off, at their own expense, to exercise that right (of protest)? Or are they just trying to shut us up?"

In practice, the value to employers of a legal challenge to the day of action would depend on whether it was taken against a trade union in their own industry or whether it was a more general case against Mr Murray and the TUC General Council.

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similarly political view of the action is being taken by the TUC-affiliated union representing top civil servants, the First Division Association, which has advised its members to attend work normally and cross other Civil Service union picket lines if necessary.

Trains and buses are expected to be halted on May 14 as a result of a general strike by the transport and railway unions. Many other public services will function at emergency level only.

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Police facing pickets of the National Graphical Association outside the offices of the "Express and Star" in Wolverhampton yesterday.

16 pickets arrested in newspaper dispute

From Arthur Osman
Wolverhampton

Sixteen members of the National Graphical Association were arrested on the picket line outside the works of the Wolverhampton Express and Star yesterday as bitterness grew in the regional newspaper dispute.

The arrests came as the one editor of the Express and Star left the publishing area in Castle Street, Wolverhampton. Two vans at a time were loaded behind closed doors and left escorted by a police car.

Police helped to clear tin

tacks scattered in the road to

get them through. Two ranks

of men then marched with

the remaining opposition to

BL management's imposition of

its pay and conditions package

crumbled yesterday when 1,600

Jaguar workers voted over-

whelmingly to end their three-

week strike.

But as one strike ended a

new dispute broke out at Cow-

ley, the second biggest car plant

in the group. In a second dis-

pute over changes in "toggling"

allowances for men doing

dirty work, 57 paint sprayers

were taken off the clock and

walked out in protest. A further

360 paint shop employees were

laid off.

Output of Maxi, MGB GT and

Princess models is continuing

using existing stocks of painted

bodies, but will be halted short-

ly.

Like workers in the recent

strike at Longbridge, the Cow-

ley paint sprayers are objecting

to donning protective cloth-

ing in their own time, although

since Easter they have been re-

ceiving £3.12 a week increase

in their special allowance,

which earns them an extra £11

a week.

The Jaguar mass meeting in

the Central Hall, Coventry, had

been expected to be a formality

after 16 hours of peace talks

between shop stewards and

management over the weekend.

In the event it proved to be

tough and go.

The deciding factor was a

speech by Mr William Lap-

worth, the Coventry divisional

organiser for the Transport and

General Workers' Union.

Workers leaving the meeting

said that until Mr Lapworth

spoke the men were evenly

divided on a return to work.

He had insisted that nothing

less than the future of Jaguar

was at stake. In his view Sir

Michael Edwards, chairman of

BL, would not hesitate to sacri-

fce Jaguar to safeguard the

recovery plan for the group as

a whole.

Sir Michael had originally set

a deadline for the strikers to

return to work on Monday or

be dismissed, but he extended

that to give them time to vote

on a peace formula arrived at

on Sunday evening.

The sole item of business for

passage into the publishing

room, which nevertheless came

out in one edition only.

The combined circulations at Telford and Wolverhampton are between 333,000 and 335,000. An official at Telford said last night: "It is our intention to continue publishing."

Police will be intensified

at Wolverhampton today but

doubts were expressed about

Netzops and Slade men continuing

to help in production after the lead set by Telford.

The Express and Star's journal

was divided last night, with

70 deciding to go in to work

but 40 saying they would

obey NUJ instructions not to

cross the picket lines.

At the Birmingham Post and

Mail, which have not published

since last Friday, it was said

no papers would appear today.

There is considerable concern

apparently over the Express and

Star's "infiltration" of the

fringes of the group's circula-

tion area.

Norwich: East Anglia has an acute shortage of newspapers

as provincial managements fall

in behind Newspaper Society

policy and suspend NGA print-

ers.

Ipswich: Since Sunday, the

East Anglian Daily Times and

Evening Star have not appeared.

Cambridge: The Evening News

ceased publication from mid-

night last Wednesday. The

Essex Chronicle series of

Chelmsford, is not being

printed.

Colchester: Six weeklies will

be on sale this weekend because

their printers, QB of Colchester,

are not a party to the dispute.

Bradford: Four pickets were

arrested outside the Telegraph

and Argus. Eleven members of

the NUJ were "locked out";

but 35 were still on news duty.

The paper came out yesterday

and on Monday with eight

pages; selling at 6p, produced

by Mr Arnold Hadwin, the

editor, and a "scratch" team.

Claim about Turin Shroud put in doubt

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs
Correspondent

"Claims that the Shroud of Turin can be traced back to at least the sixth century AD have been challenged by a leading scholar of the Byzantine period. If true, it is right the shroud, which is alleged to be the burial shroud of Jesus Christ, has no recorded history before the fourteenth century, and the case for its authenticity is seriously weakened."

Doubt was thrown on the shroud's provenance last night by Professor Averil Cameron, new Professor of Ancient History at King's College London. In her inaugural lecture given to an audience including many prominent Byzantinists,

she claimed her argument by showing that the multiplication of religious tokens and reliques had often been used by one side or another in the evolution of religious teaching, which was usually closely tied in with political issues of the day.

Professor Cameron is now disputing the case for regarding the shroud and the Mandylion, another famous Christian relic, as the same object.

The Mandylion has not survived under that name to the present day, and a number of advocates of the shroud's authenticity have argued that the Mandylion wrapped up and with a different name and hence that the shroud could be traced back far nearer to the time of its alleged origin.

That theory seemed to have met one of the principal objections to accepting the shroud as 2,000 years old, and it was popularized in the book and film called *The Silent Witness*.

The Mandylion first appears in history in the sixth century in Edessa. Professor Cameron relates it to a legend of a King Agbar, a contemporary of Jesus, who was supposed to have received a letter from Jesus and whose messenger painted a portrait of Jesus at the same time.

"It would be a serious mistake to relegate such items as the Image of Edessa to the realm of popular religion, nor shared by intellectuals," Professor Cameron said last night.

"The fact is that in late antiquity, religion, that is, Christianity, played the role ascribed in our day by Michael Foucault, rightly or wrongly, to sexuality. That is, it had come to occupy every aspect of thought and life, every mode of reasoning and every activity. It worked as a power structure, and through the power structure."

Naturally, then, the government used tokens of Christianity, the most revered icons, as instruments of power and authority. In such an atmosphere the multiplication of religious tokens was almost inevitable, especially if they were used in asserting the truth of one side or the other in the disputes.

The Mandylion was not mentioned in one of the most reliable reports of the siege of Edessa in AD 544, which throws great doubt on its existence at that time.

Only subsequent less reliable accounts speak of it. In the next few centuries accounts of this object change it gradually from a painting produced by human hand, to an icon produced miraculously, and much later to an imprint of Jesus's face on a piece of cloth. It is this last description of it that led to it being identified with the shroud.

Without any previous history before 1353, the authenticity of the shroud now has to rely on other evidence. Professor Cameron concluded.

Union deals blow to hopes of white collar group

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SWAN NATIONAL 



Blair Peach inquest told of a 'hail of missiles'

By Nicholas Timmins

Evidence that a petrol bomb was thrown at a police bus, that a "hail of missiles" was directed at the police, that a girl was struck by a policeman on the head as she fled from him, and that officers struck another witness about the face, was given to the Blair Peach inquest at Hammersmith Coroners' Court in London yesterday.

Miss Lee Tyler, a student, aged 17, of Ladbroke Grove, west London, said that she had heard older Asians arguing with younger ones during the demonstration against the National Front election meeting in Southall last April.

The younger Asians wanted to push over a police coach and Asian women and children were moved to one side and stones were thrown from the coach, which, she agreed in cross-examination, seemed to be a signal. "More bottles

and stones were flying everywhere, hitting the coach."

Theo a petrol bomb, "a milk bottle with a rag in it" was thrown on to the roof of the coach and ignited before falling off.

The coach was driven away and she moved back into Beechcroft Avenue, the road in which Mr Peach suffered his fatal injury. A police van turned into the road opposite and an officer got out and arrested a small West Indian boy, aged 12 or 13, dragging him into the van.

"People got quite angry about that," Miss Tyler said. "They started throwing things again." Some of the stones hit the back of the van and broke the back window of a car.

She went down Beechcroft Avenue and looked back to see the police forming at the top. "A few people threw things but they stopped and started to run. I heard a scream and there was a police van just come to a halt. About six policemen got out. Four of them were holding truncheons."

Miss Tyler ran into a garden and hid behind the fence, but

realised she might still be seen. She saw her friends out for a walk, and went with them down an alley. One friend slipped, and Miss Tyler looked back to see a policeman coming.

"I realized he was coming after me, so I carried on running down the alley. I felt a thud on my head and I fell over. A police pilled out, some hours which hurt her. "I was hit from behind across the cheek and the side of the face."

She looked up and saw a policeman still chasing a man who had entered the alley in front of her. Her vision was slightly blurred. When she looked up again, "the man had his back to the wall with his arm up over his face, protecting it."

The man's knee was raised across his body, and the policeman "was just beating him across the knee with his truncheon".

Another policeman pointed his truncheon at him "like a sword". "He went straight for my groin with it." He twisted, and the blow struck his pelvis.

A third policeman said: "So you like Paki bastards," and

Workers Party at the time of the events in Southall.

She did not go to hospital for a day or two after the incident, in spite of headaches and a split ear, or make a statement to the police, because she was in care at the time and afraid people would get into trouble if it was found she had been at the demonstration.

The police had visited her in July, after interviewing her friends and realizing she must have been there.

Mr Harry Tait, aged 33, a student, of Moreton Towers, Acton, London, said that he was at the bottom of Beechcroft Avenue when a blue Special Patrol Group van drove fast down it. Police piled out, some with truncheons raised, some with riot shields.

"There was a general panic,"

Mr Tait said. A policeman put his arm around his neck and he was thrown to the ground.

Another policeman pointed his truncheon at him "like a sword". "He went straight for my groin with it." He twisted, and the blow struck his pelvis.

A third policeman said: "So you like Paki bastards," and

hit him across the face. He protested that he had not done anything and was hit again. His nose and face were bleeding and his mouth was cut.

He did not make a statement to the police until they came to see him in July. In answer to questions from Mr. Brian Watling, QC, counsel for the Metropolitan Police, who asked him why he did not report what appeared to be a "nasty assault" when the police were mounting an exhaustive investigation, he said that what happened to him did not seem particularly significant.

"I was just one of many," he said. "Most people's injuries were much more serious than mine. He did not think he could identify the police officers responsible.

Mr Charles Dean, aged 32, a school caretaker, of Fairbridge Road, north London, told of a police charge in the Broadway, and of a coach with a policeman on board being driven at speed at the crowd and through a police cordon. "It was lucky that no one was killed at the time," he said.

The inquiry began in the summer of 1978 with allegations of

Countryman may go on up to another year

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

Operation Countryman, the investigation into allegations of police corruption in London, could last up to another year if processing prosecutions even if there are no further arrests.

The inquiry began in the summer of 1978 with allegations of corruption and criticism and there has been speculation that changes might be made, but there have been official denials at suggestions of debate within the Home Office.

Critics of Countryman point to its poor record. One detective

had returned to duty after suspending and another had

been charged against him with withdrawal in court. Senior officers have complained at undue secrecy

and that it is unlikely until well into next year.

A date for committal proceedings against the next two officers is likely to be set during the next few weeks. That would probably mean that their trial also would not be until next year.

Another indication that Countryman is likely to continue for some time is the fact that Mr Leonard Burt, assistant Chief Constable of Dorset, is to return to control the investi-

gation after a period with his own force.

In what shape Countryman will survive is not clear. Eighty provincial officers are involved, but that number would be cut down if there were no further investigations.

The operation has often been the centre of recent months of controversy and criticism and there has been speculation that changes might be made, but there have been official denials at suggestions of debate within the Home Office.

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900lb bomb defused by Army in Ulster

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

Army bomb experts yesterday completed a 12-hour operation, spread over two days, to defuse 900lb of explosives hidden under a road near a village in co Tyrone.

The home-made explosives, packed into nine milk churns, primed and ready for detonation by a command wire, were found by an Ulster Defence Regiment soldier on routine patrol.

They were hidden in a vault a mile from Cappagh, about ten miles west of Dungannon and were discovered when the patrol was investigating a suspicious car. The area was declared clear at 2.30 pm.

Jail damage: The Ulster Volunteer Force said yesterday that "loyalist" prisoners in Crumlin Road Prison, Belfast, had damaged their cells when some prisoners were punished for taking part in a demonstration against the republican parade in the prison at Easter. They claimed that four prisoners were injured.

The Northern Ireland Office said that furniture was smashed in several cells last week after inmates had been locked up for the night. Pieces of furniture were being used to damage the cells.

"At no time was there any confrontation with members of the staff and no injuries were suffered by any inmate. There was no question of any group or faction in the prison being given permission to parade," the officer said.

Belfast shooting: Mr George Kerr, aged 44, a plumber's mate, was shot dead in his bed in east Belfast early yesterday by a man who forced his way through the front door.

Investment incentives: Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said yesterday that Ulster would continue to have by far the most attractive investment incentives of any region of the United Kingdom.

He told the Chamber of Commerce and Industry that he did not accept that Northern Ireland should be wholly insulated from public spending restraints.

Doctor criticized for not telling relatives

By Annabel Ferriman
Health Services Correspondent

The relatives of a middle-aged woman dying of breast cancer were not told that she was suffering from a fatal illness until a month before she died, the Health Service Commissioner's report, published yesterday, says.

The daughter of the dead woman was not told to the commissioner that her mother was persistently misled by her consultant into believing that her prognosis was good and that she, the daughter, had only learnt her mother was fatally ill from the family doctor mentioned in passing, thinking the family knew.

Mr Cecil Clothier, the Health Service Ombudsman, said that he did not question the consultant's normal practice to do so; but he had inadvertently departed from it.

He recommended that medical staff made sure that relatives were informed or, when they did not accompany the patient, the family practitioner was told.

The commissioner dealt with 67 cases in the eight months up to March 31, 1980, of which some justification was found in 52.

The parents of a premature baby admitted to a special baby

unit complained that it was unreasonable that, because of the visiting practices at the unit, the father had to wait five weeks until the baby's discharge before he was able to hold her; and that the mother's access was limited to one hour a day until she was allowed to feed the baby, a week before the infant was discharged.

Mr Clothier criticized the unit's restrictions on visiting. As a result, the area health authority agreed to review the practice about access in cases where a baby was expected to remain in a special care unit for a significant period.

He also upheld the complaint of a general practitioner who had to wait more than two years for an explanation of why the arrangements in his area for out-patient treatment of drug addicts had been changed with the result that no clinic was available for his patients.

Mr Clothier's Commissioner's Fourth Report for session 1979-80 (Stationery Office, £5).

MPs' demand: Mr Frank Dobson, Labour MP for Holborn and St Pancras South, has called for reports by the Health Service Ombudsman naming the health authority concerned to be made available to the public and press in the relevant area.

Leading article, page 17

Ambulance men praise planned changes in NHS

By A Staff Reporter

The Government's plan to reorganize the National Health Service would improve emergency and general services, the Ambulance Services Institute says in a report.

The proposals to abolish area health authorities, published in the document, Patients First, would improve standards at a time when demands on ambulance services were increasing.

The institute, one of the main professional ambulance organizations, believes plans for regional funding would remove the ambulance service from the local political arena and allow poorer services to be improved at little extra cost.

The report also recommends further training of ambulance workers to deal with demands caused by the greatly increasing number of elderly patients who require non-emergency transport.

Patients First was strongly criticized recently by the research group, the Outer Circle Policy Unit, which said it would achieve little and cause widespread disruption.

Future of the Ambulance Service (ASI, 28 Little Norton Lane, Shaftesbury, 8, South Yorkshire).

Harassment fear deterring housing moves'

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Fear of racial harassment on isolated housing estates has deterred people from moving from overcrowded old houses in Southall, London, the Ealing Housing Aid Service said yesterday.

A report detailing the plight of deprived people, including black and Asian families, says the service has "concrete evidence of severe racial harassment on council estates".

It reported: "It is therefore not surprising that people are extremely reluctant to go to areas like Northolt and Acton, which contain over 50 per cent of the council's total housing stock."

Calling for a greatly increased housing programme, the service says: "If families in housing need could afford to buy their way into better housing they would have done so already. The rapidly shrinking commercial private rented sector provides very little accommodation, especially for black people."

Southall Ignored: A report on housing conditions in Southall (Ealing Housing Aid Service, 92/94 Warwick Road, London W5).

Tipping on designated site in Glamorgan questioned

By John Young
Planning Reporter

A Welsh council's expected decision to permit the dumping of rubble on a site officially designated as of special scientific interest seems certain to give rise to some embarrassing questions.

The site, in West Glamorgan, is known as Pantysais Fenn.

According to Dr Tony Cadwaladr, the Nature Conservancy Council's regional officer for South Wales, it forms part of the same hydrological system as the Crumlin Bog near by. The area is an important habitat of rare sedgeland plants and is classified as of Grade 1 national importance.

In recent months Maurice Bros, a company of civil engineers and contractors, which

Invalidity pension pledge given

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

The Government yesterday responded to the growing protests over the proposed cut in invalidity pensions next November by promising to restore the value of the benefit when it was brought into line with the new menu of rolls and butter for all patients.

Mr Patrick Jenkins, Secretary of State for Social Services, made clear in the Commons, however, that the promise depended on economic circumstances.

He said: "I can give the House this assurance about invalidity benefit: when it comes into tax, subject to the availability of resources, we shall propose back this benefit to what it would have been had it stayed in step with retirement pension from November."

At face value, Mr Jenkins' statement implied that invalidity pensioners would receive

an increase in November, 1983, of 15 per cent more than retirement pensioners. The Social Security (No 2) Bill, now in standing committee, proposes to give the Government power to reduce by 5 per cent increases necessary fully to price invalidity pensions and short-term benefit in each of the next two years.

A 5 per cent cut is already proposed for this year as an interim measure until the benefits affected can be brought into line in 1983. But ministers have admitted that 400,000 invalidity pensioners, more than two thirds of the total, would not pay tax if the benefit was taxable now.

That has led disability organizations to protest both at what they described as an "unfair level" of the long-term sick benefit tax and the money away twice", he said.

Labour MPs were preparing last night to press a series of amendments designed to exclude from the proposed 5 per cent cut all people receiving benefits below the tax threshold.

Mr Jenkins' announcement

met with little enthusiasm. Labour members of the standing committee said that it would still be unfair to subject invalidity pensioners to the 5 per cent cut this year.

Organizations for the disabled said it was the only logical step for Mr Jenkins.

"It would have been scandalous if he had not given this assurance," Mr Peter Mitchell, head of research at the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, said.

"It is not a great concession: they are going to put invalidity pensions back to square one. It simply means that they are not taking the money away twice", he said.

Labour MPs were preparing last night to press a series of amendments designed to exclude from the proposed 5 per cent cut all people receiving benefits below the tax threshold.

Before planning approval is given the local authority has agreed to consider submissions from the Greenpeace organization, the Political Ecology Research Group and the Barrow environmental action group, which have been working together to analyze the hazards.

The contentious shipborne fire is not in dispute between British Nuclear Fuels and the environmental groups. The difference between them is that the fuel company believes the sequence of events leading to such incidents is too unlikely to be credible.

Conversely, the Political Ecology Research Group and Greenpeace argue that even a million-to-one chance of an accident is intolerable.

Nuclear experts study chance of catastrophe

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

The hazards of placing a liquid gas terminal close to the installation for handling waste nuclear fuels at Barrow-in-Furness are being assessed by the safety and reliability division of the Atomic Energy Authority.

An interim report on the development says a substantial spillage during unloading of hydrocarbon condensate "could possibly result in fire engulfment of a ship unloading spent nuclear fuel flats at the facilities of British Nuclear Fuels in the same basin."

The safety experts believe the nuclear fuel containers would withstand such an incident.

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HOME NEWS

Miami air route is awarded to Laker

Arthur Reed
Correspondent
Laker Airways has been selected by the Civil Aviation Authority to open a scheduled service between London and Miami in addition to British Airways, which is already on the route.

The authority preferred Laker Air Europe, which also applied for the licence, after a hearing in London which ended Monday.

It gave no reasons for the decision but said that it would publish them soon.

Mr Freddie Laker, chairman of Laker Airways, said yesterday that the new service would begin on May 22 using Douglas DC10 aircraft.

Flights would be three weekly, increasing to daily in winter.

The authority's decision means that after years of wrangling with aviation departments on both sides of the Atlantic Sir Freddie has three important routes to the United States: between London and New York, Los Angeles and Miami.

Laker, however, is not beginning the right for which it applied, to fly to Miami from Gatwick airport, London.

He authority appears, in its main decision, to have favoured an established airline with wide-bodied jets and operating transatlantic routes, to Air Europe, which formed only last year and short-range Boeing 737s.

Flight to Europe said at the hearing that it would have to lease bodied airliners for the non route, but would buy type of aircraft later. It said yesterday that it was considering an appeal.

Both British and two United States airlines are allowed to fly between London and Miami. It has become popular as a holiday destination for us, under an amendment recently to the Berlin Agreement.

Freddie told the hearing he proposed single fares on the route ranging from £200 during the high season to £100 standby in the low season. His airlines would not a first-class cabin.

Art man 'out of hospital soon'

Keith Castle, the heart transplant patient, who is back at the hospital, near Caversham, is suffering from a mild case of pneumonia. He is expected to be discharged soon, it was stated yesterday.

Castle, aged 52, lives in sea, London. He is the longest surviving transplant patient. He had operation last August.

Festival Hall tries to stem tide of ticket touts

Music Reporter

Festival Hall in London increased its efforts to curb the activities of ticket touts who cluster round the Bank concert halls before popular concerts.

The hall's latest monthly carries a warning to touts about the touts: they aim to sell tickets for Bank events at double, or quadruple the face value after circulating rumours that tickets are available at the box office. These tickets are

£5 licences proposed to fund national dog warden service

By Richard Ford

A campaign was launched yesterday for the setting up of a national dog warden service paid for by a large increase in the annual licence fee.

The proposed increase in the fee from 37p to 55p would ensure that the cost of operating the scheme would not fall on ratepayers. The cost of a licence has been unchanged since 1878.

The Joint Advisory Committee on Pets in Society, which announced the plan, said that Britain's estimated 5,000,000 dogs should wear an identity disc showing that they were licensed and dog wardens should be given the right to inspect licences.

It said that the aim of the service, which would be run by district councils, was to reduce the estimated 500,000 strays roaming the country. It would also reduce the burden on the police, who deal with stray dogs.

The Government said in January that it intended to introduce a dog warden service in Northern Ireland. Now the committee wants a commitment that it will introduce legislation in the next parliamentary session for a service covering the rest of the United Kingdom.

Ms Janet Fookes, Conservative MP for Plymouth, Drake, and vice-chairman of the committee, said when announcing the proposals in London yesterday: "We believe a dog warden service aimed at an increase in the dog licence would be the most practical way of dealing with the problem.

Lassa fever scare at public school

From Our Correspondent Bristol

Staff and pupils at Clifton College, a preparatory school in Bristol, were under medical observation yesterday after a boy aged 10 had been taken to hospital with suspected Lassa fever.

The boarder had come into contact with nine class mates and staff after flying to Gatwick from Lagos on Friday. He had been on holiday in Nigeria, where his father works as an engineer.

After he had arrived at the school the boy, who has not been named, complained of a high temperature and was taken to the sanatorium, and then to a £150,000 isolation ward at Ham Green Hospital, near Bristol, on Monday.

Doctors, led by Dr Ronald Waller, a tropical diseases consultant, have taken blood samples from the boy, who is shrouded in a plastic tent. The results of tests are expected in three or four days.

Arab remanded on Libyan murder charge

An Arab was remanded in custody yesterday to appear at Lambeth Magistrates' Court, London, tomorrow charged with murdering Mr Mahmoud Abdou Salam Nafa, a Libyan solicitor, at Ennismore Gardens, Kensington, London, last Friday.

Mr Brook Ali Mohammed el-Gid, aged 29, of Queensway, West London, who appeared at Hammersmith Magistrates' Court, also faces three charges under the Firearms Act involving possession of a .38 Smith and Wesson revolver and five rounds of ammunition.

More Home News, page 14

Boat man is honoured forrina B rescue

Kenneth Voice, coxswain of Shoreham lifeboat, has been honoured for the rescue people from the Greek ship, Athina B, which ran aground on Brighton beach in 1978.

The rescue operation lasted six hours during a wave of the lifeboat so high that it had to be towed on top of the sea. Mr Voice has been honoured for the silver bravery of the Royal National Institution.

RNLI also announced today that a silver medal was awarded to Mr Trevor Padstow, coxswain of Padstow in Cornwall, which was last December in command of the worst memory to aid the freighter, Skopelos Sky.

00,000 fire damage at National Trust priory

By Our Correspondent

At the Priory, an eighteenth-century residence near Wakefield, the ancestral home of the Oswalds, was damaged yesterday. Valuable and antique furniture and valuable paintings and Chippendale furniture.

A bedroom above, with its four-poster and Chippendale furniture, was badly damaged by heat and smoke. Other rooms were affected by smoke.

The priory was presented to the National Trust in 1952. It attracted 76,000 visitors last year. A brochure says that it houses a matchless collection of furniture and 400 paintings.

Lord St Oswald was in London on House of Lords business but returned home when told of the fire. He described it as "a disaster".

Bristol riot inquiry will look for remedies

From Our Correspondent Bristol

The present licence fee was ludicrous, as the cost of collecting it far outweighed the receipts and it was estimated that the dogs in the country were not licensed", she said.

In places where no dog warden service existed the amount of time and money spent by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was enormous.

The campaigners claim that there is a public concern over stray dogs, which they say cause about 1,800 road accidents a year, resulting in the death of about 6,000 farm animals a year, and cause extensive fouling of parks and footpaths.

We have already had one meeting, when we investigated what happened on the night of the riots", she said.

Back-up arrangements: Police

officers and senior Home Office

officials will also tomorrow discuss the aftermath of the Bristol riot and the need for fast-back-up from neighbouring police forces if unexpected public disorder arises (the Press Association reports).

The three, Mr Kenneth Spencer, Mrs Mavis Thornton and Mr Frank Clifford, have already paid nearly £10,000 for their defence. Most of it was raised from other dog lovers.

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PARLIAMENT, April 29, 1980.

Durable arrangements on EEC budget could not be found

House of Commons
Regret that it had proved impossible to make more progress on the internal problems of the EEC was expressed by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, in reporting on the outcome of the meeting of the European Council in Luxembourg.

In spite of intensive efforts to reach a satisfactory compromise on the United Kingdom's contribution to the EEC budget, she said it proved impossible in the time at the disposal of the EEC heads of government to find an acceptable combination of both amount and duration.

Mrs Thatcher, indicated that Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, attended the meeting with her, said it took place "against the background of a sombre international situation of which all of them in Luxembourg were acutely conscious".

The first part of our discussion was therefore (she continued) directed to the problems of Afghanistan and Iran. On both of these we were in total agreement.

On security, the government in the west, whatever its political attitude, to respect the charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law.

This requires in Afghanistan that Soviet forces should withdraw, and in Iran that the American hostages should be released without further delay. So long as these two legal stipulations remain, the world will continue to live in the shadow of potentially grave developments.

In our meeting, therefore, for the European Council to report, the earlier suggestion which the Nine had made for a political solution to the problem of Afghanistan. This would, I believe, that, without regard to traditional neutrality and non-alignment.

Equally it was right for the Council to reaffirm the decisions on Iran taken last week by the Nine Foreign Ministers, while at the same time assuring the Secretary-General of the United Nations of our full support for his efforts to find a political solution to that problem.

The second part of our meeting involved discussion of Britain's net contribution to the Community budget and a number of other questions which had again associated with it. For this reason, Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture attended a meeting of the Council of Agriculture Ministers on Sunday. That meeting concluded with the previous discussions on the proposed agricultural prices for 1980/81 and other agricultural questions.

They reported to us that, with some reservations, the other eight member states were ready to approve an average increase in prices of about 5 per cent, including 4 per cent on milk and sugar, an increase in the co-responsibility

Mr James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition (Cardiff, South, Lab.)—We are glad to hear what the Prime Minister said about the government generally inviting respect for the charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law. She referred to the need for Soviet troops to withdraw from Afghanistan and that the American hostages should be released without delay. Both of these are essential.

There were also fresh proposals on a common organization for sheepmeat which the others were ready to approve.

On our budget problem, there was agreement that the Council would both reduce our contribution and increase the benefits to us from Community expenditure. We were able to make considerable progress on amounts but less on the duration of the arrangements.

A number of proposals were made including one which would have reduced our net contribution by £25m but for 1980 only. We were not able to agree on later years.

In spite of intensive efforts to reach a satisfactory compromise it proved impossible in the time at the disposal of finding an acceptable combination of both amount and duration.

We then discussed the other agricultural matters which our partners wanted to settle at the same time. These discussions revealed a number of difficulties.

I made it clear that the proposals on CAP prices would have budgetary and other consequences for us which Mr Walker and I did not feel justified in accepting. Those consequences, in particular, which would have been seriously disadvantageous and which I did not accept.

We also reviewed the progress of our negotiations on the common agricultural policy. We all want to make progress but it is clear that much more work needs to be done on this subject. I told my colleagues that to be acceptable to us any solution must safeguard the interests of our fishing industry.

We discussed the energy situation in the Community and the problems caused by the 10-fold rise in international oil prices over the last six years. We invited the European Council to examine what new measures may be necessary on oil supplies and, second, to review the current policies of the member states on the replacement of oil by nuclear fuel, on the development of power and on conservation.

The Council intends to revert to these matters at its next meeting in Venice. I expect that it proved impossible to make more progress on the Community's internal problems. But since our partners have brought these several issues together, I believe it is understood that they cannot be dealt with unless at the same time the budget problem is solved.

Meanwhile the President of the Council intends to be active in the next few weeks in seeking a satisfactory outcome. He will receive our full cooperation. We both believe that such an outcome can be achieved.

Too big a gap for Britain to accept

House of Lords

After repeating the Mrs Thatcher's statement in the House of Lords, Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, described the two alternatives on offer yesterday over Britain's budget contribution.

One (the said) was a proposal that the contribution in 1980/81 to this country of 1,600m units of account for three years something for the next two years something for rather less.

It would appear that our net contribution for the year to the budget would be something between 1,700m and 1,900m units. That would leave a gap of 700m. Mrs Thatcher and I thought that was not a big gap for us to accept, having regard to the economic position of the country and the net contribution made by other countries.

The second alternative was a cut in our contribution in 1980/81 of £50m on which the said £25m for one year, for the next year, although it was not very specific, it was suggested there should be a ceiling of 800m units on our contribution, which was the figure which Mr Callaghan when Prime

Minister, found unacceptable in 1979. We have got to have another try and get this settled (he said later) because it is befuddling the problem of Europe. Nobody is more anxious than I am to get a settlement but the Government was right not to accept this particular proposal.

The best course would be to send these matters back to the appropriate Councils for the time being and then to consider how best we can do it. It would be much better if we could get a real breakthrough on the budget.

But since our partners have brought these several issues together, I believe it is understood that they cannot be dealt with unless at the same time the budget problem is solved.

Lord Carrington said the Government had already made clear it did not believe that the way to find a solution was by use of force.

I exclude (he said) the operation to release the hostages because I think that would be a legitimate operation. I would not think the further use of force was likely to get the release of the hostages. We have to think of something else. That is what we are seeking to do.

Mr Callaghan—May I ask Mr Flannery to realize that 50 hostages have been held in Iran in flagrant breach of every single international convention we have ever signed.

Mr Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab.)—The piece of electoral military adventurism entered into by the Americans in Iran has despoiled the world situation. The Prime Minister described this adventure as courageous. Will she not realize that had those American troops not gone to the embassy there would have been a major shoot-out with a large number of people?

Mr Speed (Ashford, C.) said that if the country was to make the best use of women the Government must reconsider the traditional practice of not allowing them to carry arms.

The Government (he said) acknowledged that there is a serious issue involving far-reaching changes, and in reaching a decision we wish to take full account of the views expressed in the House and elsewhere.

The proposals in the White Paper are basic for discussion and it is not early to say when a decision will be taken but I make it clear that we are only considering arming for limited defensive purposes and have no intention of primarily equipping women in primarily combat roles.

When it took office the Government found that alarming gaps in training and manpower were having a direct operational consequence. All these factors were a haemorrhage of alarming proportions of highly trained middle rank officers and NCOs exercising their right to leave early. Recruiting was not working.

We are still (he said) not out of the wood today (the situation is incomparably better than a year ago). The effect of pay improvement had been dramatic, though this was not a cure-all.

Will she make it clear that in this country will have no part in such lunatic intentions of the part of such a dangerously powerful man as Mr. Bush?

Mr Flannery—I think there can well be a danger of some of the Iranian Peoples. It would be contrary to the interests of the West if that happens and I hope that Iran will retain her unity. But it is a matter for internal affairs in Iran.

With regard to military action, I have made my own views very clear.

The amendment was rejected by 122 votes to 77—Government majority, 42.

A Government amendment to clause 15 (Assistance under section 3 of the Industry Act 1972), which would require that assistance in the form of a loan or short capital should only be given if the Secretary of State was satisfied it could be reasonably expected in any other way to succeed.

Viscount Long said it was important that the Secretary of State should only be able to acquire a share of a company where this was absolutely necessary.

The amendment would not be different to the policies pursued by Sir Keith Joseph but it was right that this safeguard should be on the statute book.

It would ensure that any future Secretary of State who wished to use the acquisition of share capital as a means of increasing state control over industry would at least have to obtain Parliament's consent.

Mr McNair-Wilson—Is he satisfied with the upper age limit at which an abortion might take place under the Act? Does he think that the upper age limit does provide attention to advances in medical science?

At Southmead Hospital, Bristol, they are having great success with

Widespread support for Mrs Thatcher's firm stand

in the newspapers that for the later years there would be a review of the budget mechanism?

Was there any indication of what we could have expected to get in the later years if we had accepted £800m or thereabouts for 1980/81?

Our budget problem, there was no agreement on the methods by which the Community would both reduce our contribution and increase the benefits to us from Community expenditure. We were able to make considerable progress on amounts but less on the duration of the arrangements.

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A flagrant breach of international law

The Prime Minister said at question time that a rescue operation could be distinguished from military intervention, and Labour protest that Britain was not with Conservative

Minister, John Leakey (Epsom and Ewell, Lab.) had asked, Mrs Thatcher to answer the questions which, she said, had been left unanswered in the defence debate on Monday, namely whether she could have accepted that the Diego Garcia base was not available to the United States in the rescue attempt in Iran, and whether an assurance that Britain would not support military intervention there.

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We are still (he said) not out of the wood today (the situation is incomparably better than a year ago). The effect of pay improvement had been dramatic, though this was not a cure-all.

Will she make it clear that in this country will have no part in such lunatic intentions of the part of such a dangerously powerful man as Mr. Bush?

Mr Flannery—I think there can well be a danger of some of the Iranian Peoples. It would be contrary to the interests of the West if that happens and I hope that Iran will retain her unity. But it is a matter for internal affairs in Iran.

With regard to military action, I have made my own views very clear.

The amendment was rejected by 122 votes to 77—Government majority, 42.

A Government amendment to clause 15 (Assistance under section 3 of the Industry Act 1972), which would require that assistance in the form of a loan or short capital should only be given if the Secretary of State was satisfied it could be reasonably expected in any other way to succeed.

Viscount Long said it was important that the Secretary of State should only be able to acquire a share of a company where this was absolutely necessary.

The amendment would not be different to the policies pursued by Sir Keith Joseph but it was right that this safeguard should be on the statute book.

It would ensure that any future Secretary of State who wished to use the acquisition of share capital as a means of increasing state control over industry would at least have to obtain Parliament's consent.

Mr McNair-Wilson—Is he satisfied with the upper age limit at which an abortion might take place under the Act? Does he think that the upper age limit does provide attention to advances in medical science?

At Southmead Hospital, Bristol, they are having great success with

Servicemen to get help with house purchase and cheap rail travel

They expected to recruit nearly 50,000 men and women in the year just ended, as compared to 43,360 in 1978/79. Total strength of United Kingdom Service personnel on March 1 was 326,682. This compared with a "low" of 314,000 last June.

The Prime Minister had today confirmed that the Government accepted in full the recommendations of the Armed Forces Pay Review Board. The increase in the military salary was an increase of broadly 17 per cent to 30 per cent for officers and 15 per cent to 17 per cent for other ranks, all with effect from April 1, 1980. The average increase was 16.8 per cent.

An Opposition amendment being considered with it reaffirmed commitment to the proper defence of Britain through membership of Nato and paid tribute to the men and women serving in the armed forces and their civilian supporters but declined to approve the defence estimates statement in the first place.

Mr Jenkins—That has been our policy to maintain the armed forces at a level which would be acceptable to the public. We have been able to do this by making the pay more competitive.

The Prime Minister had today confirmed that the increase in the military salary was an increase of broadly 17 per cent to 30 per cent for officers and 15 per cent to 17 per cent for other ranks, all with effect from April 1, 1980. The average increase was 16.8 per cent.

It was not an extravagant when compared to some settlements in the private and public sectors. Acceptance of the increase in the military salary was an increase of broadly 17 per cent to 30 per cent for officers and 15 per cent to 17 per cent for other ranks, all with effect from April 1, 1980. The average increase was 16.8 per cent.

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WEST EUROPE

EEC partners stunned by Mrs Thatcher's rejection of budget

By Michael Hornsby
LONDON, April 29
Britain's eight EEC partners were stunned by Mrs Thatcher's rejection yesterday of Luxembourg of what they considered an extremely generous reduction in the British contribution to the EEC budget. By general consent the summit meeting, in the words of Roy Jenkins, the President of the European Commission, was "tantalizingly" close to agreement. At one point the offer of a further £100m by Mrs Thatcher's partners might have clinched the deal.

What went wrong? Many went unexpected right, in the inauspicious augury of the preceding week's dispute over farm prices. President Giscard d'Estaing of France, in particular, made huge concessions.

In essence the French idea that Britain's net contribution should be held at £1,197m—about £500m (compared with the £1,100m forecast for 1980) and £490m for 1981, for the next three years, with a review at the end of the third year. Although the level of contribution proposed was still too high for Mrs Thatcher, the cash scheme was clearly the most promising move in many variations of the French me were explored on the day. For Mrs Thatcher there were two principal contributions: a reduction in the net contribution had to be made, and it had to be

guaranteed for a least two and preferably three years, with an agreement to continue thereafter.

The question of duration was vital because it will be at least five to six years before longer-term changes, such as an increase in the proportion of British trade conducted with the Community and a decline in the percentage of EEC funds spent on agriculture, are likely to bring about any natural improvement in Britain's budget position.

The most difficult concession demanded of Mrs Thatcher was the proposed 5 per cent increase in EEC farm prices, which would probably add more than £1,000m to the Community's agricultural costs this year and weight the balance of the Community's spending priorities ever more against British interests.

The offer which Mrs Thatcher came closest to accepting would have reduced Britain's net contribution to about £325m in 1980 and to £327m in 1981, for the next three years, with a review at the end of that year.

The Prime Minister, however, wanted the increase in 1981 to be linked to the percentage increase in the size of the budget as a whole, which in current trends implied a net contribution in that year of about £390m.

This was just too much for President Giscard d'Estaing and Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, who felt, in the phrase of a French official, that they had "gone to the limits of generosity".

10,000 school workers in strike in France

about 200,000 secretaries, cleaners, librarians and laboratory technicians stayed away from schools where they work in last of a series of strikes that have affected every sector of the French education system during the past week.

It is claimed to be the militancy in 20 years, teachers from schools and universities went on strike for two last week and on Saturday parents went on strike, refusing to send their children to regular morning classes.

At the end of the week also saw a break of violence at Caen and Grenoble, where police and students who had been occupying the campus in protest against new measures being introduced to scrutinize foreign students applying for places at universities.

Teachers' strike was as part of a continuing campaign for better working conditions and higher pay, though the central issue has been the Government's decision to keep classes in keeping with

the fall in the school population.

The strike by the parents, organized by their million-strong federation, was to support a campaign for higher standards and a larger educational budget. The school assistants on strike today were not slow to join the general protest movement.

The campaign by the unions has been growing throughout the present school year. Last term, teachers in private schools joined a one-day strike for the first time.

The Government reaction has,

so far, been extremely tough.

M Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, said in the National Assembly last week that he deplored the action of the strikers which hurt only the children.

M Christian Beuillac, the Education Minister, pointed out that in the past two months there had been only 26 school-days. "Are we not reaching the time when we will have to ask what is the validity of examinations?" he asked the Assembly.

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VERSEAS

Search continues for casualties of sea exodus from Cuba

By Patrick Brogan

Washington, April 29.—The United States Coast Guard picked up two bodies from a capsized cabin cruiser he strayed between Cuba and Florida yesterday, and continues to search for other victims of the drift from Cuba. At least a dozen boats were overturned by high waves today and Monday. By then it 44 people have been

the Governor of Florida has declared the state's two southernmost counties disaster areas, has allocated state funds to the refugees. Meanwhile, United States Government makes ineffectual attempts on the ferrying of refugees by West.

Boats carrying refugees were seized by the Guard yesterday. Those who tried to pick up people who are told that they run the boat lines, but no

appear to be taking the very seriously, out 3,000 refugees had

in Key West by the end of last week, brought by a small American craft and pleasure boats.

There were about 10,000ees at the Peruvian embassy in Havana. Some have flown to South American countries, but most are waiting to be taken to the United

out 1,000 refugees remain

embassy. They are mostly government officials or who do not trust the Government's promise of conduct. The rest have got conduct passes and are either at home or at the Cuban port of Mariel, taken off.

Boats from Florida are mainly by people looking for relatives still living in Cuba. President Castro is per-

to leave. According to Senator Clark, Miami College, about three of those leaving are the embassy. The rest are of those on the boats. Senator Clark brought two

to Washington yesterday to tell their story at George

University. They were Domingo Rodriguez, a professor of linguistics at Florida University, and Enrique Hernandez, a

Rodriguez lost his job last year when he applied for a visa to visit Spain. He is, in fact, to join relatives still living in Cuba.

I for police
cer 'expecting
est' in Delhi

Our Correspondent

April 29—Delhi High Court today interim bail to Mr. Sharma, a senior superintendent of police.

Sharma had approached court expecting he would be arrested at any moment. As he was pressured to give evidence against Mr. J. C. Shah, who headed the mission inquiring into theencyrty excesses involving Indira Gandhi, India's Minister, and her son, Rajiv Gandhi.

His application for interim bail, Mr. Sharma said over the past two months had been repeatedly urged

by Mr. Bhinder, Commissioner, to give evidence against Mr. Shah and other important persons by swearing he had personal knowledge of his son and Mr. Bhinder case.

Sharma said that on April 29, he was told him "and other known and unknown" as basis of a complaint by Mr. Bhinder on the 15th.

Mr. Bhinder, who had insisted that Mr. Shah's complaint was a fabrication, had been approached by Mr. Bhinder, who had told him the way to escape the consequences of the case was to help him by giving evidence to Mr. Justice Shah.

Local clashes: Local and migrant workers today in Imphal, capital of north-eastern Manipur despite a 48-hour curfew on the town yesterday, 3,000 people belonging to minority communities were evacuated from their in Imphal after riots and swept the town yesterday. Operations were called out to police who used baton and tear gas to disperse mobs in yesterday's

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Social Focus



A corner of a typical student bedroom in a 'key' university, measuring 21ft by 12ft, with bunk beds for up to 10 students. The room was originally designed for two.

The enthusiasm and application of Chinese students working under austere and adverse conditions is one of the most immediately impressive features of the Chinese education system. Yet one cannot help wonder what is really going on behind those almost stereotyped fresh open faces, unmarked by the traumas so many have lived through.

The experience of Wang Guo Dong, a 29-year-old student of English at one of China's 'key' universities, is probably fairly typical of his generation. He was 14 when the Cultural Revolution broke out. It shattered the sheltered, disciplined world in which he had been brought up. The values he had been taught to espouse he was now told to despise. The people he had learned to respect he now saw reviled, tortured and imprisoned.

His education until then had been authoritarian and conventional. As in Chinese schools today, emphasis was placed on obedience, conformity, memorization and rote learning. There was and still is, little spirit of inquiry, creativity or critical analysis, despite exhortations like the following, from Mao:

"Communists", Mao wrote, "must always go into the whys and wherefores of anything, use their own heads and carefully think over whether or not it corresponds to reality and is really well founded. On no account should they follow blindly and encourage slavishness."

R. F. Price, writing about education in China shortly before the Cultural Revolution, commented on the enormous pressure on pupils and teachers to conform. Fear of saying anything which might be politically wrong led to a continual repetition of well-worn oversimplifications, he said. That situation has not changed, though what is politically "wrong" or "right" appears to change all the time.

Wang Guo Dong did not question

the Cultural Revolution; he moved with the tide. Like all his school friends he joined the Red Guard; he criticized his teachers; he boycotted formal classes; he discussed politics. It was a new freedom, but set in the old conformist mould.

When he was 17 he was sent with four of his school friends to work in the country for three years. The work was hard, the accommodation primitive, and there was, of course, no chance to catch up on the missed years of formal schooling. But he does not look back on that time as wasted. He says it did him good to try to understand the lives of peasants who, after all, constitute four-fifths of China's 1,000-million population.

In 1972 he was allowed to return to his home town to work in a factory. Universities were just beginning to reopen after the Cultural Revolution shutdown, but he being the son of a white collar worker was not eligible to become a student. So he started studying in his spare time by himself, buying an old gramophone and Langophone records to help him with his English.

In 1977, competitive examinations were reintroduced for entry to university and he was among the 5 per cent of the five million candidates who managed to win a place. Although he plans to become a teacher on graduation, his factory continues to pay him his basic salary of 40 yuan (about £12) a month. (The average industrial wage in China is about 60 yuan a month.)

He is more fortunate than his university friend who, having remained on a commune, receives no salary and therefore has to rely on his girl friend to support him throughout his four-year course. Student grants are given only to the most needy and are usually very small.

Although Wang Guo Dong is newly married, a girl he met in the commune, and lives only a 20-minute bicycle ride from the university, he

prefers to live on campus in conditions which would horrify British students.

Up to ten students are squeezed into rough bunk beds in a 21ft by 12ft room originally designed for two.

Unheated cement-floored communal washing rooms have only cold water taps, though hot water may be fetched from a basin. The rooms are bleak. Paint and plaster peel from the walls. There are no cupboards, no proper curtains; no room for personal possessions.

Wang Guo Dong explains that he can study better at university. The bicycle journey would take up too much precious time. His day begins with morning drill at 6 am. Breakfast is at 7. Classes (of which he has 20 hours a week—far more than the typical British student) start at 7.30 and continue until 5.30 pm when there is one hour's compulsory physical exercise. Supper is at 6.30. Then more study until 10 pm.

Chinese students work very hard. University holidays are much shorter than in Britain—about four weeks in winter and six in summer. Classes take place six days a week. A degree course generally lasts four years, five for a medical course.

China has only 10 years primary and secondary schooling (and that by no means universal) compared with 12 years in Britain. It is said that Chinese students are only at about O level standard or lower when they enter university. But despite all the difficulties of antiquated equipment, large classes, out-of-date textbooks, and too many second-rate teachers, they will have made up a lot of lost ground by the time they complete their courses. They are desperately anxious to get on.

For the moment, then, these intellectual children of the Cultural Revolution are busy, though they still find time to discuss politics. Chinese students are reluctant to talk openly to foreigners, but Wang Guo Dong

is now growing up who are too young to remember much about the Cultural Revolution. But they have a new cause for dissatisfaction and homelessness—unemployment. The Chinese government itself talks of seven million young people "waiting for work". It is primarily an urban problem. In Shanghai, for example, two-thirds of last year's school-leavers are still without jobs.

The government is trying to encourage these unemployed to enter their own co-operatives or "labour-service companies", doing various jobs like sewing clothes, helping on construction sites, working in hotel porters, running shops and restaurants. There are also plans to change about two-fifths of the academic secondary schools into specialized vocational schools to give pupils readily employable skills.

But such measures are still only a drop in the ocean. And meanwhile the former Red Guards who were sent out to the country during the Cultural Revolution continue to flow back into the cities and add to the ranks of the discontented.

In the West there would have been an explosion long before now. But China is in the East, where as my colleague and long-time China watcher Richard Harris points out, the emphasis is not on human rights but on human obligations. Furthermore, the Chinese people have never lived under anything other than a totalitarian government; they are used to taking orders, to adapting to new situations, to subsuming the self in the interest of the community good.

The appearance of uncritical submission and blithe hard work certainly does not reveal the whole truth. But there are no signs yet that the young urban Chinese are ready to rise up and attack the established order.

Diana Gledhill
Education Correspondent

A model end to misery

In an era of specialists, Jean Gimpel represents a threatened species: those able to move easily between the two cultures of science and the humanities. He has been variously an expert in the chemistry of old master paintings, a saboteur in the French Resistance, a medievalist, and an historian of technology.

Appearing sometimes to be caught between the speed of his thoughts and the intensity of his convictions, he talks like a machine gun, spraying one time after another with an intense fire of fresh ideas and ideas flies.

His ability to fuse ideas and knowledge has produced two marvellous books: *The Cathedral Builders* and *The Medieval Machine*, both hymns to the genius of times when western man dominated his machines, vice versa.

That same belief in the value of traditional technologies naturally led him to share the growing feeling that the best hope for the poorest countries is not in importing alien, expensive and labour-saving western technologies, but rather in rehabilitating, improving and breeding old or at best intermediate—techniques.

Such traditional technologies are cheap, can be repaired, and do not disrupt traditional patterns of living. Many, however, are inefficient and need modification. But how to "sell" these improvements? Impoverished villagers in Asia, Africa and South America are suspicious if change and hard to instruct. Jean Gimpel hit on the simple model of an improved version of the traditional Himalayan water mill.

There are, he estimates, more than 25,000 of these traditional mills in Nepal, of a design dating back 2,000 years. But they are not well conceived: the blades of the water wheel are too flat, the water chute is open (causing splashing), as are the sides, so up to 3 per cent of the flow being ground—its main purpose—gets blown away.

Through the International

Malinological Society he found details of a nineteenth-century Romanian horizontal water mill, not too dissimilar in design, but with spoon-shaped blades (also wooden), and with the water supply concentrated by a jet.

A model of this Romanian mill was first shown to a miller in the foothills of the Indian Himalayas. He immediately saw that he could increase his earnings by incorporating its improvements in his traditional mill.

Now the adoption of the Romanian mill has become part of the Nepalese Government's five-year plan. For good measure, a very simple, wood-framed, locally-repairable electrical generator has been designed in kit form to harness the mill's hydraulic energy, and Mr. Gimpel's vision of "lighting up the Himalayas with horizontal water wheels" is on its way to being realized.

Many of the models have been designed and made with John Evans of the Architectural Association, and with Don Hardwick and Ali Beshiruddin, the Egyptian-born designer of Approximate Technology Ltd. Another such model is of a fish farm, which Mr. Gimpel thinks could even be introduced in England. First you build a raft. On that goes a small dwelling. Underneath goes a fish cage, through which water flows.

"There are around 10,000 of these in the Mekong Delta," Mr. Gimpel explained. "Through them, we intend to introduce them to Egypt, but using ferro-concrete, since there is little wood there."

With help from the World Bank, models are being used to spread the use of the Lorena cooking stove, evolved in Guatemala five years ago, which

combines available techniques with scientific principles to enable combustion to be controlled and to have fuel consumption.

Another model is of the famous Archimedean screw, a traditional way of lifting water from one level to another, widely used still but unknown in some areas. Yet another is of the very efficient Chinese version of the methane gas digester, which uses human as well as animal faeces.

Mr. Gimpel's latest idea is the "negative" model, showing also how not to do things. One such two-sided model shows animals standing too close to a well, with dung seeping down into it through the earth. The other side shows what should be done: a fence holds them far enough back to protect the well. Another shows villagers ploughing straight up or against a hill, so that rain washes the earth away. On the reverse: a model of contour ploughing, with furrows catching and retaining the rain.

"You see the possibilities are unlimited", says Mr. Gimpel. The field of health beckons. "I aim to do one that shows the effects of using polluted water to mix powdered milk: the mother mixing; the child crying and dying; the mother happily breast-feeding."

His friend John Bunyan, inventor of the Bunyan bag which revolutionized the treatment of badly burnt world war II pilots, believes there are many simple medical treatments which could be spread by the use of models. Since they are simple and cheap, no one is interested in marketing them, he says.

It is now widely accepted that the only way to raise living standards in the poorest countries is to keep the rural populations out of the cities and make them more productive. There is some talk of the transfer of traditional technologies from one continent to another to help achieve this. Jean Gimpel and his associates believe their models are the best way of passing on such knowledge.

It is ironical that in an age of satellite communications, a few small models incorporating centuries-old ideas should hold out the promise of relieving misery in distant villages.

Roger Berthoud

Taking women into account

Vera Di Palma, familiar to *The Times* readers for her lucid and attractively presented articles on taxation, becomes resident today of the Association of Certified Accountants, one of the six professional bodies which preside over the standards and the morals of accountants in Britain. It is a evolutionary step. In a profession in which they are unusual, women now holds a position which is not merely influential, but seen to be influential.

The mainspring of her ambition is, indeed, quite otherwise. He was born in Kentish Town, London. "In the days before it was taken over by the middle classes, she chose to specialize in tax partly for the intellectual challenge, but partly, as she readily admits, because she thought it a good use from which to launch her assault on higher management. Even with tax as well as accountancy qualifications, she had difficulty in working through the credibility gap at Unilever when she applied for a job in the tax department. Her fears were there were, she says, over, valuable experience—but they led nowhere. This was at the point that Miss Di Palma abandoned her ambitions, took teaching, and started to take

a serious interest in what was happening in her association.

She had then, and has still, a strong interest in presenting the case for accountancy as a career for women, and thought about it. So, in conjunction with a small band of like-minded women, and with the help of the sympathetic secretary to the association, she formed a women's group to press their point of view. In a profession traditionally dominated by men, such feminine cabals were likely to be well received: and indeed all attempts to get them onto the council of the association initially failed. At this point, however, Miss Di Palma discovered that she had a political instinct. She maneuvered the women's group into a position where the council of the association gave in graciously and co-opted her, as a female representative, into their midst. She has since proved her worth with a year as vice-president, and another as deputy president, in preparation for this year in office.

As chairman of her own association's council, and their representative on the consultative council of the six accountancy bodies (CCAB), she has the power to initiate developments for the profession as a whole. One of those she is most

likely to pursue would put the CCAB out of business.

She thinks that the present division of the accountancy profession into six professional bodies is ridiculous. In tackling this problem she will have a tough fight. The last time that it was suggested that the six professional bodies should be amalgamated, the English Chartered Accountants threw the suggestion out, as did the Association of Accountants and Financial Accountants, partly because it was felt that the six bodies were too well established to be merged.

Another theme of her presidential year will be accountancy as a career for women. To some extent her earlier activities in this field have borne fruit already: for as against a female membership of only three per cent in 1965, five per cent of the members of the association are women now, and 26 per cent of the students registered with the association last year were girls. She thinks that the figure should be much higher—partly because an accountancy qualification in itself opens up all sorts of career possibilities, and partly because it is a profession in which it is possible to pursue with intermediate breaks, or on a part-time basis.

A. L. Gleeson

Unsettled times for children of the Cultural Revolution

"one of the problems with my many experiences is that it gave me too many independent thoughts which are not necessarily for the good of the country".

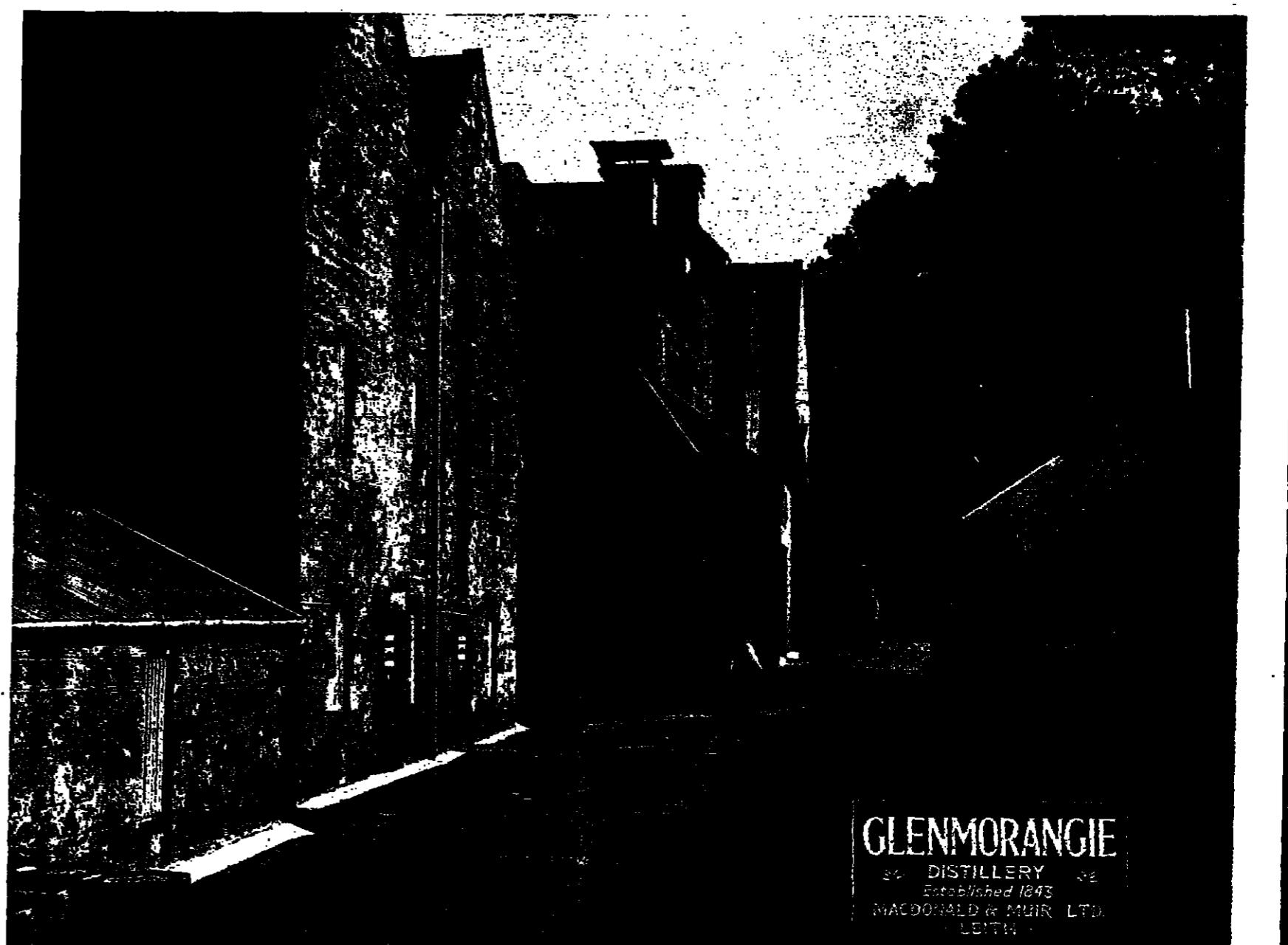
There are thousands of students and millions of young people in China today who have lived through the type of necessities during their most formative years. For a westerner, it seems impossible that the successive elevation, destruction and rehabilitation of leaders and official policies has not bred cynicism and criticism. The opening up of contacts with the West must also be leading to some questioning of traditional values.

A small but steady flow of foreign students is once more coming to study in China. Western films are being shown on television and in cinemas. (*Death on the Nile* was showing in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province, while we were there.) Foreign newspapers and journals are again being brought into university libraries, though usually reserved for staff and postgraduate students.

Democracy Wall must have given the young Chinese an intoxicating taste of dissent and freedom, one would have thought. We saw, student and teacher, "well-written, well-honed" as China's first modern dissident when he was jailed for 15 years last November on a charge of counter-revolution. But will others follow?

During his trial, Wei claimed that he and his friends had joined the Red Guard in 1966 not, as was commonly supposed, because Mao encouraged them to rise up but because they were influenced at seeing all the inequalities and irregularities in society and at school. Nothing had happened to change that, he said. How many others feel that sense of injustice?

A new generation of young people



This is where the world's finest single malt comes from.

No single malt whisky is more respected than Glenmorangie.

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overlooking the Dornoch Firth, it remains today what it has always been.

Virtually unrivalled for taste. And, hardly surprisingly, in somewhat limited supply.

Since 1894, however, the subtle pleasures of Glenmorangie have been available on a more generous scale.

It is to be found in a blended whisky called Highland Queen.

Produced very slowly, using time-honoured, not to say old-fashioned methods, Highland Queen contains a very high proportion of malt whisky.

It is, in short, to ordinary blends what Glenmorangie is to ordinary single malts.



SPORT

Football

Arsenal's programme for action on new FA Cup date rejected

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Concerned that their protracted semi-final round tie with Liverpool may not allow sufficient time for the proper organization of the Cup Final on Saturday week, and with their own fixture problems, Arsenal yesterday asked the Football Association to delay the final until May 11. The FA refused but admitted that they were beginning to worry.

Arsenal's anxiety primarily concerns the fact that on the Wednesday after the final they are to play Valencia in the European Cup Winners' Cup final and that they still have four league matches. Their manager, Terry Neill, said he could envisage concluding the programme well after returning from Brussels but on the Friday after that the home international championships begins, with Northern Ireland taking some of their players on their tour of Spain.

Arsenal and Liverpool will start their third semi-final replay at Highfield Road, Croydon, tomorrow. Should this go on, without winners a fourth replay will be held at Bramall Lane on the 12th, and the 13th at Middlebrough next week with his team still requiring one or two points.

From the evidence of Monday's dramatic semi-final tie, in which Sunderland scored for Arsenal within 30 seconds, Dalglish

equalized in the last minute of full time, and for a while Liverpool played strongly with him there is still some doubt of the outcome. Liverpool said to 200,000. A spokesman said to the loss of advance sales had already cost Wembley £100,000.

If history repeats itself Liverpool will lose the third replay. But the form line is not as trusted since their earlier defeat at this stage of the arduous exercise was in 1899 at the hands of the Shrewsbury Capitals 4-1 in the final. In those days, presumably, the pressure of matches would not have caused the embarrassment that will occur if there is yet another draw.

Liverpool are well used to the demands of a wide range of competitions but even their mental and physical stamina is being tried. On Saturday they require two points from their last home match against Ascoli Villa in order to be assured of winning the championship, albeit on superior goal difference to Manchester United who are at Old Trafford.

Arsenal, too, will be tested. They would like to retain the title in front of their own crowd and, curiously, against the same team they beat in the title last season. Their manager, Bob Paisley, said: "I must be laughing that heads off. It's another tie on Thursday, two days before the final itself. The prospect is a nightmare for the organizers, especially those involved in the production of programmes and the distribution of the 25,000 tickets that go to each of the finalists.

The Wembley authorities usually print 300,000 programmes. In a senior freight made a before a year con 1978. The tax in charges compare £6.4m. £530m. for. The Government limit of hopes to it also

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SPORT

ennis

Opening night of Big D how jars as JR iddles with the rackets

Tom Bellamy

Daily Correspondent

Dallas, April 29

It was a good day and bad day. Most of them are just adding. The trick is to get the right stuff out of the way when it does not much matter. In the men's doubles, the South African Championship Tennis pair, series John Kriek, a nimble South African who lives in Dallas, was seldom better than Sadri. Sadri did not much add to his game because John Sadri of the Carolina, was bad. The match was muddling by most standards and bad by those associated with this famous "Big D" name. Perhaps JR had been idling with the rackets, a trick won by S. 6-5, 6-5, 6-5 in 60 and 53 minutes. Long as it was over an adjacent court had switched off a vision of a much improved version of the match from him. "Why did you do that?" I didn't like the program, there had to be teething bites this was opening night of the South African and assembled talent was over the weakest in the tournament's history. It was hoped that the might honour the memory of the intellectuals and artists who died in the French series name—that the more modest visitors might be inspired to possible imitations of such winners as Rosewall, Newcombe, Ashe or Borg. That could happen, but it did not happen evening. Kriek and Sadri were drum.

On the opening ceremony misfiring. The announcer of the 50-strong male-voice was reduced to an incomprehensible bellowing. The image of amplification and acoustics was inadequately tested to the presence of about 20 people in an arena that had before been populated. The problems, too, in the South African match after this first day "Dallas" could only get better. It is a big fellow with a lager good looks and a truly pulverizing service.

Sadri produced two aces in his first service game, was twice a break up in the first set and seemed to be getting back into the match when he recovered from 1-4 to 4-4 in the fifth set—raising the level of his play a time when Kriek was losing momentum. But Kriek played two fine shots when he needed them, on a top-spin lob. Then he hit a massive return off a first service and found out that the ultimate humiliation for big servers like Sadri.

ishman Higgins foiled by b of the green

Wayne Friskin Higgins of Belfast came reach of the maximum break of 147 in the world championship sponsored by Sir Shearer. In a quarter-final match against Davis, of London, he came a break of 122 which enabled to draw level at four-all in first period of this 25-break. The scores (Higgins first) 79-51, 37-67, 0-136, 62-65, 21-34, 21-34, 1. Higgins had ported 15 reds and blacks with a customary in the yellow fashion, but was 15 points remaining for a slam. He was awfully for the green. It rested the top cushion and, using it, he tried unsuccessfully to fit into one of the pockets. So the sum of 94 points, which would have given him a maximum break, eluded him. The third frame Davis cleared with a break of 136 was all grace and ease to the highest mark for the tournament, set by Kirk in 1974, won by Wim Hofker, the last red, he took his link, which brought his total 9, and then helped himself to 27 points available. After

by League

an who missed a bus isigan's coach

Keith Macklin A topsy-turvy nature of sport fortune is exemplified in the stories during the past year. George Fairbairn and Wigan Great Britain full-back, was an unclaimed Wigan coach to the new St Helens, Kel Collett, for the team for Australia announced last April. Fairbairn's name was a surprise to many, but he had only one match full-back, Keith by was chosen. It was a disappointment for Fairbairn, but when he began to take the ball a tournament, he had only joined to his tour to Australia was one of the better persons on the ill-fated tour. To up the invitation to Australia to down tools and play in the Australian national team, he was given a place on the team. As it is a big challenge, he is full of confidence that to give to coaching the drive energy he gives to playing.

the record

lighting

European champion lightweight scratch: 1. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 2. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 3. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 4. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 5. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 6. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 7. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 8. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 9. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 10. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 11. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 12. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 13. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 14. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 15. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 16. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 17. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 18. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 19. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 20. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 21. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 22. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 23. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 24. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 25. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 26. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 27. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 28. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 29. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 30. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 31. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 32. G. Fairbairn (GB), 137.5; 33. G. 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HOME NEWS

Deportation faces Anglophilic actress

By Lucy Hodges

A Russian Jewish refugee who dreams of coming to England for years and eventually arrived on a visitor's permit faces deportation any day for overstaying her welcome.

Miss Mary Duniya is now an Israeli citizen. She does not want to return to Israel, where she has lived for six years, because she does not feel she belongs there. Her main ambition is to act on the British stage, to play Shakespearean roles, and to continue her other hobbies of writing plays and poetry.

To call Miss Duniya an Anglophilic would be to underestimate her strong feelings about this country and its culture. Having studied English and drama at Leningrad University, where she developed her passionate interest in Shakespeare, she went on to teach English at Kiev University.

In 1972 she left the Soviet Union for Israel. There she began to write poetry in English. She converted *Wuthering Heights* into a 30-minute, one-woman show for herself.

"There is a great similarity between the emotional lives of the characters in *Wuthering Heights* and those in Dostoevsky's *The Idiot*," she says. Her show, with Miss Duniya playing Cathy Linton, has been performed in Jerusalem, in Haworth, the home of the Brontë family, and to the Royal



Photograph by Dennis Riley

Miss Mary Duniya at the Russian Refugee Aid Society in London yesterday.

Shakespeare Company in Stratford-on-Avon.

The RSC did not take up the play but they gave it a good hearing. Mr Robert Stephens, the actor, agreed to read Heath's copy of *Alas, Poor Yorick* for it. She is now completing a script of *Anne Karenina*.

"I was brought up on Keats, Byron and Dickens," she says. "I fight for England in the way Byron fought for Greece. As an artist and a lover of

English literature, I belong here."

Miss Duniya has the support of Mr Alas Shitole, the novelist, who thinks it would be advantageous if she could stay. She has talents as a poet, as a theatrical producer and as an actress," he said.

"She will contribute to the richness of the arts in particular, and to intellectual life generally. In this sphere she will not deprive anyone of

their job, or, indeed, their daily bread."

A few weeks ago the Home Office rejected her appeal to remain here as a "self-employed artist" because under the new immigration regulations foreigners who have entered the country as visitors may not apply to stay. She is required to leave the country and apply abroad to re-enter.

Festival will depict India's past and present culture

By a Staff Reporter

A Festival of India, backed by both the British and Indian governments, is being planned in Britain to run from the autumn of next year to the summer of 1982.

Dr I. P. Singh, the acting High Commissioner for India, said yesterday that it would be the largest exposition of Indian culture ever attempted. "It will

show the wonder that India was and the bold experiment that it is the India of today."

The festival will seek to provide the British public with an opportunity to increase its knowledge of Indian civilization and to enable Indians living in Britain to celebrate their cultural inheritance.

Exhibitions announced yesterday included one at the Hayward Gallery in London, from

March to May, 1982. It will present about 900 sculptures and 100 paintings, more than half of which will come from Indian collections.

The Victoria and Albert Museum will present "Courtly Life in Mughal India", the British Museum will offer "From Village to City in Ancient India". The Museum of Mankind will have an exhibition of life and work in an

Indian village, and the British Library will have a display of illuminated and illustrated manuscripts.

A history of Britain's involvement in India will be the subject of one of a series of exhibitions at the Commonwealth Institute.

Only the exhibitions have been announced, but the Sunday Express are defending the book on the grounds that what Mr. More wrote was true.

Law Report April 29 1980

Man freed from jail: use of photographs criticized

Regina v Lamb

Before Lord Justice Lawton, Lord Justice Dunn and Mrs Justice Hulbert

A man's conviction on a wounding charge was quashed because the prosecution at his trial had produced Criminal photographs which had been identified by witnesses, and the jury after referring had asked to see his "mug shot". There was no corroborative evidence that he was the assailant.

The Court of Appeal, sitting that there was a lurking doubt about the conviction, allowed the appeal of Peter David John Lamb, 23, of Marbold Avenue, Wimborne, Manchester, against his conviction for the offence of wounding. The court of ten to one at Manchester Crown Court (Judge Hardie) last November of wounding Vinod Bhatia, a student, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm. He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. An order was made for his immediate release from prison.

Mr B. A. Hytner, QC, and Mr Alan Conrad for the appellant. Mr J. M. Shorrock for the Crown. Mr B. A. Broomhead at Manchester University, and two fellow students named Peter David Gibbons and Carl Anthony Skinner had gone to a cafe after a dance. Three men came in, sat at an adjoining table, stared at the students and then left. The students left and appreciated that they were being followed, inferred by the three men from the cafe.

The men attacked the students and Mr Bhatia was injured, possibly by a chair. He did not get in touch with the police until the following day. Two days later at the police station the three students showed three albums containing 300 photographs to the Criminal Record Office type of men, all white, who had been convicted of crime in the Manchester area.

Mr Skinner picked out the assailant as one of the assailants and left the room. Then Mr Bhatia was brought in but was unable to identify anyone. Mr Gibbons later picked out the assailant's photograph.

The assailant, who was arrested eight days later, denied that he was involved and said that he had an alibi. He was sombre and aggressive and the police were confronted with his identity. Mr Skinner was available and was brought into the room: he identified the assailant as one of the assailants. He did not get in touch with the police until the following day. Two days later at the police station the three students showed three albums containing 300 photographs to the Criminal Record Office type of men, all white, who had been convicted of crime in the Manchester area.

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Mr Skinner asked for a committal under section 2 of the Criminal Justice Act, 1967, whereby the prosecution had to call all their evidence. The prosecuting lawyer had been unable to exhibit the album of photographs containing the photographs of the assailant picked out by Mr Skinner and Mr Gibbons.

Positive act required

Red House Farms (Thorndon) Ltd v Mid Suffolk District Council

A company which failed to remove a trailer from vacant land cannot be convicted of "doing" anything which has the effect of continuing or aggravating the injury caused by the condition of the land and contrary to section 104(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, because a positive act is required, the Queen's Bench Divisional Court held.

The court quashed a conviction by Stow justices of the company, Red House Farms (Thorndon) Ltd, of Stowmarket of failing to remove with notice to remove it by the local planning authority under section 63 of the Act.

Mr Shorrock at the trial decided to produce the album of photographs to the jury. The reason was that it was a striking coincidence that both Skinner and Mr Gibbons had picked out the same photograph from 900.

It could not have been clearer to any intelligent member of the jury that it was a photograph taken of someone who had been convicted of an offence. That photograph and all the others were an album of local villains.

During the prosecution's case Mr Conrad called attention to what applied to him to have been identification in that he was identified by witnesses, and the jury after referring had asked to see his "mug shot". There was no corroborative evidence that he was the assailant.

The Court of Appeal, sitting that there was a lurking doubt about the conviction, allowed the appeal of Peter David John Lamb, 23, of Marbold Avenue, Wimborne, Manchester, against his conviction for the offence of wounding. The court of ten to one at Manchester Crown Court (Judge Hardie) last November of wounding Vinod Bhatia, a student, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm. He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. An order was made for his immediate release from prison.

Mr B. A. Hytner, QC, and Mr Alan Conrad for the appellant. Mr J. M. Shorrock for the Crown. Mr B. A. Broomhead at Manchester University, and two fellow students named Peter David Gibbons and Carl Anthony Skinner had gone to a cafe after a dance. Three men came in, sat at an adjoining table, stared at the students and then left. The students left and appreciated that they were being followed, inferred by the three men from the cafe.

The men attacked the students and Mr Bhatia was injured, possibly by a chair. He did not get in touch with the police until the following day. Two days later at the police station the three students showed three albums containing 300 photographs to the Criminal Record Office type of men, all white, who had been convicted of crime in the Manchester area.

Mr Skinner picked out the assailant as one of the assailants and left the room. Then Mr Bhatia was brought in but was unable to identify anyone. Mr Gibbons later picked out the assailant's photograph.

The assailant, who was arrested eight days later, denied that he was involved and said that he had an alibi. He was sombre and aggressive and the police were confronted with his identity. Mr Skinner was available and was brought into the room: he identified the assailant as one of the assailants. He did not get in touch with the police until the following day. Two days later at the police station the three students showed three albums containing 300 photographs to the Criminal Record Office type of men, all white, who had been convicted of crime in the Manchester area.

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THE ARTS

New York
To catch the most engrossing event in music and dance in New York over the past week it was necessary only to cross the room and turn on the television or, in the more sophisticated households, make sure that the video was in good running order. At 9.00 in the evening it was almost possible to hear the click of the tapes switching on all over town to capture Baryshnikov on Broadway on Channel 9.

The advance publicity had been substantial. The bookshops were full of the souvenir carrying the title of the show, admirably photographed—see right by Martha Swope (*Harmony Books*, \$8.95). And Baryshnikov not so long ago had cast an eye in the direction of Broadway when he danced in Jerome Robbins' *Fancy Free* as a City Ballet gal.

The opening minutes suggested that the expectations had pitched far too high: Baryshnikov was the way to Broadway, sharing a pastrami on rye with Liza Minelli in a Shubert Alley studio, being led through a rehearsal mirror into the wonderland that is the musical. . . All this cracked of MGM many years ago in its most naive and reverential mood. But then the gush stopped, song and dance took over. Baryshnikov proved within minutes that he could be Broadway star any day he decided to make the change. The impresarios have probably been queuing up with their cheque books but it is as well to remember that Baryshnikov has a contract of his own as director of American Ballet Theatre, starting in September.

The versatility is extraordinary. He wears in succession top hat, straw hat, cowboy sash, snap brim, chuk cap, and they all fit perfectly; he looks equally well with a quiff of hair brushed towards the eyes, which are boyish and challenging at the same time. He sings a little, in a Fred Astaire voice; he plays piano; and he dances. Goodness, how he dances. He seems to have absorbed all the styles which he went through that mirror to admire. There is the relaxed, loose-limbed manner of Ray Bolger in *Once in Love with Amy* (*Where's Charlie?*), the Cupid exaggeration for Sir Merton in *Guys and Dolls*, the open-air gags for Will Karsen's *Circus* number from *Oklahoma!*

It is possible to complain that while Baryshnikov's feet and eyes work wonders his arms have yet to acquire the fluency of the seasoned Broadway performer. It is permissible to record that we are not watching the original choreographers' work except in the case of Michael Bennett's *A Chorus Line*, which concludes the hour, and "I want to be a Showstopper", the one number



left : Mikhail Baryshnikov and Liza Minelli in "Baryshnikov on Broadway" . . . both want to be showstoppers and both succeed without any apparent effort"; above : Rudolf Nureyev and Yuriko Kimura in "Ecuadorian", a marvellously strong pair" even judged by the overall strength of the Martha Graham company

created for the programme. But these quibbles are brushed aside by the achievements of Baryshnikov and his guide, companion and co-artist, Liza Minelli. Both want to be showstoppers and both succeed without any apparent effort. Both leave the viewer wanting more and wondering what, if anything, has been left on the cutting-room floor.

BBC television are currently bidding for British rights. May they be able to screen it soon. Baryshnikov on Broadway gives clear warning that strict compartmentalization of the arts is breaking up in New York. It is a view which can be confirmed by standing in the

middle of the Lincoln Center piazza and looking at the surrounding theatres. There were raised eyebrows when the Met announced that next February it was going to mount a triple bill consisting of Ravel's *L'Enfant et les sortiléges*, Poulenc's *Les Mamelles de Tirésias* and Satie's *Ballet Parade*. John Dexter, the Met's director of production, stages the first two and Nureyev choreographs the third. It has already been argued forcefully that none of these works is big enough to fill a house the size of the Met, and David Hockney, in his New York stage debut, has taken on a substantial design task in every sense of the

phrase. The opera diehards are also none too happy about seeing ballet intruding on the winter season. There are plans for a further incursion in two years' time when a Stravinsky triple-bill is to include *Sacré du Printemps*. However the Met's music director, James Levine, is rightly keen to widen the repertory and this is one way of doing it. It can also be argued that the Met, in common with all other major houses, is becoming more and more dependent on a tiny team of international stars. It so happened that season ended with a glorious interpretation of Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*, on the

same evening coincidentally that BBC 2 transmitted an earlier performance. But the number of times a year Levine, Domingo and Scotti can be brought together is limited; so too is the number of occasions that Gian Carlo Menotti, an outstanding producer of romantic opera, can be persuaded to stage someone else's work rather than his own.

The move towards mixed-media evenings is likely to continue even though for the moment opera appears to rule the winter and dance the summer. Until the end of this week Martha Graham's company is in the house, paying its second visit there as a fairly late re-

placement for the Paris Opéra Ballet who cancelled for a number of reasons, including a dispute over the number of guest artists to be used.

Apart from Liza Minelli, who returns to narrate *The Owl and the Pussycat*, the Graham company uses one major guest artist, Rudolf Nureyev, almost inevitably, who was to have appeared with the Paris troupe. On the opening night Nureyev danced for the first time in Ecuador, opposite Yuriko Kimura; they made a marvellously strong pair, even though the Nureyev style is hardly the Graham style, and Varde's music is unattractive. Strength is one of the great qualities of the company and it was well

demonstrated in the evening's novella, *Festes*, which had previously only been seen at the opening of the Sackler Wing at the other Met, the Museum of Modern Art. The only pity about this succinct and severe comment on Antony and Cleopatra is that the music, Samuel Barber's two *Cleopatra* arias sung by Leontyne Price, had to be heard on tape.

Across the Plaza, the City Opera concluded their season on Sunday to the news that Julius Rudel, who directed them for 22 years until Beverly Sills took over, is severing his connection with the company at the end of the autumn. Despite declarations of friendship, Rudel has clearly decided that his career lies elsewhere: in Chicago, for instance, where he has a long-term contract with the Lyric Opera, and even perhaps at the Met, where he is scheduled to conduct *Hoffmann* next year.

By coincidence *Hoffmann* was the opera I saw at the New York State Thruway indifferently conducted—by Mr Rudel. On the evidence of this performance Miss Sills has a lot of work to do. It was held together by the tenor Samuel Ramey, much improved since his Glyndebourne appearance in *Figaro*, in the quadruple role of Hoffmann's adversaries. Despite his friendly and indulgent audience, which the City Opera has nurtured, the other singers had difficulty in fitting the house when standing anywhere further back than the footlights. In many respects Miss Sills's problems reflect those of her colleagues across the Met in the need to find voices with sufficient depth for the auditorium.

And she also might use a different change in the repertoire.

One of the most interesting names on the plans for next season is that of Hugh Wheeler, who is doing the English adaptation for the new production of *The Student Prince*, which plays for a week at the end of August. Romberg's opera is not in itself so weird a choice as it might appear: City Opera

is to play a little to the groundlings while the summer holidays of their regular patrons are still in full swing.

Mr Wheeler, though, is very much a Broadway name and one associated with Hal Prince. They have already worked together at City Opera on Kurt Weill's *Silberssee* to very mixed critical reaction—see Patrick J.

Close links with this team may well be one solution to repertoire problems. So while Baryshnikov flirts with Broadway it could well be that Broadway might be persuaded itself to have a little fling with the Lincoln Center.

John Higgins

Handelian charm

Acis and Galatea Banqueting House

Stanley Sadie

In tune with recent custom, the English Bach Festival opened with a costumed event at the Whitechapel Banqueting House. More are to come, notably Sunday's "Music for the Wedding of the Sun King" by Lully and Cavalli. On Monday it was Handel: that verdant product of his early years in England, *Acis and Galatea*.

Handel composed it for the Duke of Chandos' mansion near Edware, possibly for staging, but more likely for some kind of concert or party acted performance. He had only a handful of singers; if the work is staged, Polymeme has to be something of a quick-change artist. *Acis* has to be promptly resurrected (or, as here, a substitute hastily brought in), and Galatea finally has to use herself to dry her own tears—for the chorus uses require five soloists. But the music makes a much better effect than in Handel's later, grander, version which until lately has been more popular.

Brian Trowell, who produced, did wisely to prefer the small-scale approach. He staged it charmingly, with *Acis* and Galatea in Rococo pastoral costumes, the observers in something more rustic, and Polymeme in a rude, hairy skin. For the opening choruses he had the lovers somewhat apart but everyone cheerfully intertwining when the music hit them. Gesture was nicely stylized. The coarse words for "Cease to beauty", a little extra music in the finale, and a lot of ornamentation, this last mostly along the right lines but often ill-conceived in detail.

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Sills expanding the range of City Opera

Beverly Sills is now fully established as the general director of the New York City Opera, and the results so far have been a tightening of casting, a control of the repertory so that works are given in a two or three-week span and then dropped, and a brisker approach to the problems of repertory opera.

Two of this spring's season's new productions are indicative of the shape of the future (though both were in the pipeline before Sills took over).

One, *Prokofiev's Love for Three Oranges*, was borrowed from the San Diego Opera; a practice begun long before Sills but which will be expanded in future seasons. Another, Kurt Weill's *Silberssee* (*Silbersee*), employed a number of Broadway names, and seems to suggest that Sills is anxious to broaden the repertory to the

process of development, and is uneven, but her ferocity and stage presence recalls that of

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DISUNITY IN CRISIS

Mrs Thatcher was wrong to reject the budgetary offer made in her to Luxembourg by the other members of the Community. Of course it was not ideal, though it was much better than anything previously on offer. It was good only in the short term in that it would have reduced Britain's contribution to this year's budget from £1,100m to about £325m. It solved nothing in the longer term, leaving open the future to further bargaining and, meanwhile, raising farm prices to a level that would strain the Community budget. There were also other elements in the package that were less than satisfactory.

If there had been a choice, it would have been preferable to have been offered less short-term compensation and better long-term prospects of reform. Mrs Thatcher was right to be dissatisfied and right to dislike the idea of annual negotiations.

However, if she had taken a broader view, she would have swallowed her dissatisfaction and accepted. Firstly, a good level of compensation this year would have set a precedent from which the Community could not easily retreat. Her bargaining position would therefore have been stronger next year. Secondly, Herr Schmidt is facing an election this year and President Giscard is facing one next year. Both men came as far to meet Mrs Thatcher as they judged their domestic situations permitted, and probably farther. Herr Schmidt certainly came twice as far in money terms as he had been authorized by his own cabinet. President Giscard made major concessions. It was politically unrealistic of Mrs Thatcher to expect them to do more at this stage.

Thirdly, and most importantly, the broader interests of the Com-

munity and the western alliance should now be regarded as more important than a dispute over a relatively small amount of money. The Germans saw this and were as helpful as they could be. After all it was their funds that were going to finance a significant proportion of the offer. Mrs Thatcher, oddly in view of her feelings about world affairs, chose to take the narrow domestic view. She is guilty of misjudgment. The essential thing is to pull Europe and the alliance together; she has held Europe apart.

Europe now has an important dual role to play in the alliance. It must—as Mrs Thatcher says—give a steady and effective support to a troubled and angry American nation: how can we do that if we squabble among ourselves? The United States has suffered the shock of failure and has just lost the steady hand of Mr Vance. Europe must also attempt to maintain communications with Moscow on behalf of the alliance. This is not appeasement but simple common sense. The Soviet Union is a large and dangerous power with interests that mostly conflict with those of the west, but it is led by rational, if ruthless, men who can be assumed to share the west's desire to avoid the possibility of nuclear conflict. If only to reduce the danger of miscalculation it is essential to remain in contact. It is no weakness to see that a nuclear balance requires continued contact.

Between Washington and Moscow there is now no contact of any real value. Nor is there much sign of any on the horizon. In Washington the prevailing wind is in the wrong direction while in Moscow Mr Carter is regarded as a weak and irresolute president with whom it is virtually impossible to have which calls for unity.

Despite the little England attitudes struck in the House of Commons—which make Britain seem so ludicrously insular and chauvinist—it is Mrs Thatcher who has made the mistake of rejecting large concessions and sending Chancellor Schmidt and President Giscard home angry and alienated. To do this with the world in its present state shows lack of judgment, a failure to put first things first. Sometimes it is wise to be tough—but it is never wise to quarrel with your friends in the crisis hour which calls for unity.

The Government suggests—adding a tempting reference to the £4m which abolition would make available for more immediate purposes.

Sum amounting to less than a thousandth of National Health Service expenditure does not seem an exorbitant price for the service. Community Health Councils are meant to provide. It is true that their effectiveness varies considerably from place to place, and that they are apt to stir up controversy. That is part of their business. Since their purpose is to stand outside the administrative hierarchy, free from that sense of corporate solidarity which often makes the National Health Service relatively impervious to outside criticism, their role cannot effectively be reproduced by the new district authorities. The Normanfield scandal showed how effective a Community Health Council could be in uncovering problems which the health authority (incidentally, a single-district area of the kind the new authorities are to be modelled on) had timidly glossed over. An organization as large and complex in its services as the National Health Service must inevitably be afflicted to a great extent by administrative structures: the Community Health Councils are not just one dispensable batch of committees, but valuable gadflies, which serve to save the rest from complacency.

Both documents react strongly against one hint thrown out in the Government's paper—that the Community Health Councils might be dispensed with. It is in character for the present Government to be dubious about the value of such quango-like entities as the Community Health Councils, which, with no managerial role, attempt to give the consumer a voice in the National Health Services affairs. As soon as authorities having a measure of accountability have been set up at district level (and a managerial tier at present), the Community Health Council may become superfluous.

Scepticism about the benefits to be gained by reshaping any administrative structure whatever is a healthy starting-point for reform in any field. But once shaping is in the air, the temptation to take a hand in it is almost irresistible. The Outer Circle unit rightly warns against the danger that the proposed changes will raise and then disappoint unrealistic hopes, just as the 1974 reforms did. Many

evangelical one", then surely he has forgotten all the cry of the "crown rights of the Redeemer" in Scotland in the last century and at other times? Was this not evangelicism at its most principled? And it is really necessary to a biblical standpoint to insist that church government should ultimately be subject to state government, that appointments of bishops should be put through the hands of a secular Prime Minister, that the clergy of the Church of England should be unable to sit in the House of Commons, and that (contrariwise) 25 bishops of the Church of England must sit in the House of Lords? A certain amount of *a posteriori* justification may be raised by those who like these things—but the suggestion that they are not necessary to a biblical Christianity¹ also to a certain *prima facie* plausibility, and may well be a serious underestimate of the actual case.

For my part I am itching to reform some of these things. Yours faithfully,
COLIN BUCHANAN.
Principal,
St John's College,
Caius Lane,
Cambridge,
Cambridgeshire.
April 21.

Antiquities under fire

From Sir Paul Wright
Sir, The cost in human suffering of the tragic conflict within Lebanon and, more widely, across its southern borders, needs no emphasis in your columns. Our sympathy goes out to all of whatever race, creed or nation who are afflicted by the mounting toll of dead and injured. Those who are familiar with this historic region will also be aware of the threat posed to the antiquities with which it abounds and in particular to the columns of the ancient city of Tyre, which has recently been the scene of severe fighting and bombing.

Recent years have seen the development of this former Phoenician city into an archaeological site of rare importance, bearing witness to the long march of human civilisa-

tion from neolithic times to the present day. For these antiquities to be destroyed or irreparably damaged would be a tragic loss not only for those nations in the immediate vicinity whose past is intimately linked with that of Tyre itself, but for the whole of Europe, which owes so much to the Mediterranean.

The need to protect these sites was recognised by the Security Council of the United Nations in its adoption of Resolution No 459 on December 19, 1979, paragraph 5 of which states:

Takes note also of the efforts of the Government of Lebanon to obtain international recognition for the protection of the archaeological and cultural sites and monuments in the city of Tyre in accordance with International Law and the Hague Convention of 1954 which considers such cities, sites and monuments a heritage of interest to all mankind.

In order to give practical expression to these sentiments, an "International Committee to Save Tyre" is being formed in Paris, under the guidance of the Lebanese Ambassador to Unesco, his Excellency Amadou Moustapha Mbow as its honorary President. The committee's first action will be to organise a "Day for Tyre" at Unesco in Paris on May 5.

It is greatly to be hoped that this effort will attract widespread international support and thus draw attention to the concern which is felt by all who know and love this city and the heritage which it represents. Yours faithfully,
PAUL WRIGHT,
3 Ormonde Gate, SW3.

Strong language

From Dr O. R. Impey
Sir, In 1960 I tasted a "scotch" whisky in Japan called Queen George. Yours faithfully,
O. R. IMPEY.
The Ashmolean Museum,
Department of Eastern Art,
Oxford.
April 24.

Support for US action on hostages a test of alliance

From Dr L. E. Ellsworth

Sir, May I suggest that if, as you maintain in your leader of today (April 26), there is a need "to put the alliance [of the United States and Europe] together again", then "to move slowly on sanctions" against Iran, as you counsel, is the very worst way to do it? For, if Europe were to move at all, it should do so, according to the United States, in securing the release of the hostages held in Iran, it would achieve such a state of sublime inactivity that America would be glad to forgo allies at once politically inert and morally defunct.

Recall the extraordinary patience which the United States has shown in the past six months in the face of Iran's flagrant violation of international law (not to mention her outlandish and insulting behaviour, culminating this weekend in the harsh treatment of American dead), the appeals to the United Nations and International Court at the Hague, the plea for help to her allies and friends, the endless and fruitless diplomacy.

The United States has behaved in a restrained, dignified and civilized manner, and what have been the results? Fifty-three of her citizens remain captive, protected (depending on the vacillations of Iranian politics) by the anxiety of an impotent government or the whim of a theocratic madman. Her so-called allies, with few and laudable exceptions, criticize her efforts to secure the hostages' release while making no concrete suggestions themselves as to how that end might best be attained, and oblivious to the outrage of kidnapped diplomatic personnel, are manifestly more frightened by the implications of reduced trade with Iran than by the implications of Iran's illegal behaviour.

If the American-European alliance collapses, it will most assuredly not be at the hands of the United States. Rather, it will be because no friendship can sustain the greed, self-interest and perfidy, nor to mention smugness, which have characterized Europe's response to America's calls for help. Yours faithfully,
L. E. ELLSWORTH,
4 Hedgerley Close,
Cambridge.
April 28.

From Mrs C. E. Taylor

Sir, It is with increasing dismay that I read so many letters in The Times that seem to be founded on opinion rather than facts based on personal experience concerning Iran. I would, in particular, like to challenge Mr. N. Ripley (April 28). I have known Iran and the Iranian people for quite a number of years, from the Caspian Sea down to the Gulf, in the desert, and in the mountains, and in Tehran.

A very short time before the events which led to the Shah's exile the vast majority of Iranians certainly did not have an intense hostility towards anyone. They were in fact very proud of their progress, particularly in medicine, education and agriculture.

I consider Mr Ripley's statement that we (I quote) "were only indirectly responsible for such things as the Savak torture houses" horrific. Mr Ripley appears not to know what was taking place before the Shah came to the throne, or to notice what is now taking place under the Ayatollah Khomeini. Whatever methods the Iranian people choose to use is not our business, but it is very wrong to suggest that it ever was.

It is time it was clearly understood that what has happened in Iran is a cultural revolution. The Shah was going as he thought best, leading his country towards its place in a modern world. The Ayatollahs and Mullahs did not like this, and in particular they did not like the Shah's order for the women to unveil. There was evidence too that they feared a loss of authority over a newly educated, westernized population. With a largely illiterate and volatile people, so many dangerously attending the mosque each Friday, it was not difficult to influence them and then inflame them, thus bringing about the revolution.

As in the vindication of the Shah, and the Government of the United

States, surely it is the oldest trick in the world to find a scapegoat on whom you can blame all the ills attendant upon a nation! Have we already forgotten the use Hitler made of the Jews?

Once the question of the hostages has been resolved, whether happily or tragically, the Iranian people must be left to shape their own future, whether Islamic or otherwise. Encouraging fake accusations and hatreds will not help them, and nor will people indulging in their threefold passions.

CANDIDA E. TAYLOR,
Manor Farm,
Quintonham,
Norfolk.

From Mrs Vivien Potter

Sir, I believe the answer to the release of the American hostages is for the Heads of State in all European countries and the United States to call for an "international" day of prayer. The day should be a public holiday and services should be held in churches throughout the different countries, attended, one presumes, by Heads of State and President Carter himself.

We are dealing with a religious leader in Iran; perhaps our prayers would have great effect since it is obvious to most people that military action, sanctions, and other disagreeable methods are unlikely to have any effect.

Yours truly,
VIVIEN POTTER,
18 Stairfoot Walk,
Adel, Leeds.

From Mr R. F. Bond

Sir, If President Carter really wants the release of the hostages in Tehran he should tender his apologies to Iran for his support to the Shah and its predecessors gave to the oppressive reign of the Shah. Lord Carrington had no difficulty in making his apologies to the Saudis for *Death of a Princess*. He is the appropriate person to make such a recommendation to the United States President.

Yours faithfully,
R. F. BOND,
The Retreat,
9 Clive Road,
Patrixton,
Wolverhampton.

From Mrs Jean Griffiths

Sir, Should this country support American policy relating to the hostages, bringing us dangerously close to the brink of a third world war?

The hostages, for whom I have great sympathy, had their lives and have been well treated. In contrast, thousands of Iranians, thanks to CIA funding, have not. Hundreds are left permanently maimed and crippled by SAVAK torturers, this latter establishment having been helped along by American money.

It is time it was clearly understood that what has happened in Iran is a cultural revolution. The Ayatollahs and Mullahs did not like this, and in particular they did not like the Shah's order for the women to unveil. There was evidence too that they feared a loss of authority over a newly educated, westernized population. With a largely illiterate and volatile people, so many dangerously attending the mosque each Friday, it was not difficult to influence them and then inflame them, thus bringing about the revolution.

Yours sincerely,
JEAN GRIFFITHS,
35 Ormond Avenue,
Hampton,
Middlesex.

We sincerely trust that greater steps will be taken by the media, in future, to portray the facts of life in Saudi Arabia in a more balanced and less sensational way, and that there will be greater understanding on both sides of our different ideologies, especially those best suited to our individual countries.

Yours faithfully,
G. EDWARDS,
R. V. HAWKINS,
J. A. S. COOKS,
H. V. MORRIS,
A. MCNAUL,
J. GOODGE,
J. ZARINSON,
P. FLETCHER,
J. WILLIAMS,
J. JOHNSTON,
C. DICKINSON,
A. PARKER,
P. RODEN,
D. KING,
J. HEWITT,
P. BACHMAN,
PO Box 4582,
Riyadh.

R. A. HODGE,
W. J. SHORT,
W. S. MCLEAN,
G. RENDY,
G. LENNON,
G. H. KAPUR,
A. H. PARSONS,
P. JACKSON,
T. DUNNIFORD,
R. D. WEBB.

From the Bishop of Guildford

Sir, Death of a Princess may have been an insensitive presentation of affairs in Saudi Arabia, but it should not be treated as a direct attack on Islam. Your article "No cause to end a friendship" (April 24) and subsequent correspondence suggest that there is confusion on this point.

The public execution of women for adultery is not enjoined in the Koran, where the punishment is either flogging or seclusion (24:2-4). It is possible for Muslims themselves to justify capital punishment for the offence, as appears to tradition (Sunnah), but a tradition (Sunnah) has denied its essential truth. Let our Government watch its tongue if it must, but let us not talk and think like your correspondents.

Yours sincerely,
YORICK WILKS,
Black Notley Hospital,
Braintree,
Essex.

April 26.

From Vice-Admiral Sir Philip Watson

Sir, There is a good deal of talk about sanctions at the moment and I suggest that the sanction of withholding advertising from the ITV companies who put on the programme *Death of a Princess* might help to prevent for adultery and fornication.

There are no stories here of little old ladies, living alone, too terrified to answer a knock on their front door for fear of being assaulted. In Saudi Arabia you need not be afraid of forgetting to lock your house or car, and we all know that drinking alcohol is against the law.

To assess Islam according to the claims which Saudi Arabia makes to be its guardian is somewhat like taking the practice in one conservative Roman Catholic country to be representative of Christianity.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP WATSON,
Finchingfield House,
Finchingfield,
Essex.

April 26.

From Mrs Constance Cook

Sir, Yes! For goodness sake call it "Literacy"—then the Rev Mr Graham-Orlebar (April 26) can at least say he is trying out the new Literacy!

Yours faithfully,

CONSTANCE COOK,
Little Hill,
Much Hadham,
Hertfordshire,
April 26.

17

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Violence on the Underground

From Mr P. W. Davies

Sir, In association with millions of other residents of London, my wife have recently been seriously affected by the early close-down of London Underground services as a protest about violence and vandalism. I must admit that this official NUN action has in the past irritated me, but I have been forced to rapidly change my mind.

Yesterday, at about 1.30 pm, I was at Leicester Square station and witnessed what was an actually unbearable sight. About 20 heavily-booted and cropped skinheads charged through the turnstiles and rushed down the escalator smashing every advertising plate they could find. Passers-by simply cowered in terror but perhaps the most disturbing aspect of the affray was the sight of a small girl hysterical with fear. Needless to say, there was no police presence whatsoever.

No attempt was made to curtail this wanton and violent vandalism, and I can only now conclude that it is no longer safe to travel in central London on a warm spring afternoon. I gather that even in New York, the epicentre of such activity, it is only at night that such amazing breakdowns in society occur.

It would be great if we could wish the National Union of Railways and their members in their protest and I hope that some official action is taken now before the entire London Underground becomes a massive and permanent no-go area.

Yours sincerely,
PETER WYNNE DAVIES,
The London Welsh Association,
151/163 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.

Defence and the EEC

From Sir Peter Vanneck, MEP for Cleveland (Conservative)

Sir, Mr Roy Grantham's article (April 25) suggesting that European defence costs be brought into the EEC Budget equation is full of interest. His comment that we cannot for long have a Community that oversubsidizes agriculture, does little for unemployment, and treats defence as it does not exist highlights the absence from the formal committees of the Parliament of one on defence.

This is ostensibly because defence is not specifically mentioned in the Treaties. But it is not specifically excluded either, and many important topics are debated that are not specifically in the Treaties.

It is my contention that the Community, including new members as they are, must be free to discuss defence matters in a formal committee, not just by animadversion in debates on other subjects. I hope by the end of the current five-year session we shall have demonstrated the need to have this competence recognized. It would in no way detract from the importance of Nato, but would allow to the world our concern with, for instance, supply routes to the Community from farther afield. We must evidence a strength in Europe through a unity of purpose that would need to be consulted fully before bilateral superpowers, virtually over our heads.

If in addition financial defence contributions can be agreed as part of, or ancillary to, the Budget, we have yet another way of redressing its present ridiculous imbalance.</

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■ Stock markets
FT Index 436.7, up 4.6
FT Gilt 66.74, up 0.52

■ Sterling
\$2,2700, down 1.45
Index 73.2, down 0.5

■ Dollar
Index 85.5, down 0.1

■ Gold
\$518.50, down 57

■ Money
3 mth sterling 17.17
3 mth Euro-S 14.15
6 mth Euro-S 14.14

IN BRIEF

Delay on retailing discounts report

Action on discounts to tailors is unlikely before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission reports on discounting policies later this year, the retail Consortium was told at a meeting with Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade. Mr Nott did not expect any company reference for investigation would be made before the end of the year. He also indicated that the government was unlikely to bring in legislation on the retailing pattern, which restricts the buying power of its distributors. But if the Government is led by the Monopolies Commission to take action on a total basis, there will be further consultations with the consortium. If there were action on discounting policies under a new Competition Act, it would have to be on an individual company basis.

Fishlore discovery

Phillips Petroleum, Ivory Coast, Agip SPA, Petroci, the oil company of the Ivory Coast have announced an oil discovery near Ibadan in West Africa. Phillips Petroleum is the operating company.

Segment reserved

The House of Lords has given judgment on a final appeal by Lord Hunt to get access to documents relating to the Rhodesian sanctions. Lord Hunt claims the documents are vital to his case as a £15-million pound legal battle instigated by 29 oil companies.

GD mandate ends

mandatory financing of large United Kingdom export contracts in foreign currency will longer be required by the Export Credits Guarantee Department, Mr. Cecil Parkinson, the Trade Minister has told Parliament.

5m Eurobond issue

The Federal Business Development Bank of Canada is issuing \$75m (about £33m) through the issue of a five-year, priced Eurobond offering. The issue carries a coupon of 10 per cent.

K broking link

Love and Pitman Inc., the United States subsidiary of Love and Pitman, the London brokers is to open an office in Boston, Massachusetts, May. It will be the first subsidiary of a United Kingdom brokerage house to do so.

3m pollution sad

Phillips Petroleum has lost in Los Angeles it will shortly open a \$635m (over £275m) suit filed against its Los Angeles Chemicals by New York State over piping of chemical wastes in Love Canal.

Marathon jobs saved

more than 700 jobs on Clydeside were saved when a French bank took over the Marathon building yard yesterday. On Industrial Enterprise had formal handing over papers to Marathon, which has been by a United States firm for eight years. No details of the deal have been released.

Mounting losses force Thorn EMI to abandon medical scanner market

By Bill Johnstone

Thorn EMI is withdrawing from the medical diagnostic scanners market which it made into a multimillion pound business less than 8 years ago.

The company is the latest casualty in the highly competitive medical electronics field. Connection has been particularly active in the United States where government legislation curtails excessive capital expenditure on medical equipment which has made survival difficult.

The company said it recognized with the present state of the market, the medical business was unlikely to return to profitability. Heavy investment in development and engineering would be needed to support the business.

Profitability has dropped dramatically since 1972 when EMI, as it then was, launched its scanner, a revolution in design and high technology.

Over the next five years scanners were being used in six countries and had netted EMI £24m in profits.

But by the end of 1978 EMI's medical electronics group was in desperate financial trouble.

The American market, the most lucrative in the world, was seriously constrained by federal legislation preventing equipment purchases in excess of \$100,000 (£43,500).

In the 1978-79 financial year the group lost £13m and this year the loss so far is around £8m-10m.

Thorn EMI has made conditional arrangements with the medical systems business division of the American General Electric company to ensure continuing support by GE for EMI's medical electronics customers.

Under this agreement GE will service new EMI scanners in the American market and will also be responsible for sales and servicing outside North America.

Also, Thorn EMI has agreed conditionally to a settlement of its legal action against GE.

General Electric is to pay a royalty for a non-exclusive licence and will have access to certain assets of the EMI medical electronics group, principally spare parts inventories necessary to support the scanner's prestige.

Dollar weakened by sharp drop in US interest rates

By Our Economics Staff

The First National Bank of Chicago cut its prime lending rate to 18.1 per cent yesterday. On Monday, Morgan Guaranty Trust and the National Bank of Detroit brought their rates down to 18.1 per cent.

There is still room for further falls in prime rates. So far American banks have kept the rates charged to their best customers from falling nearly as fast as those on Treasury bills or the key Fed funds rate.

There is now an unusually wide variation in the prime rates charged by large United States banks. This ranges from the 18.1 per cent of Morgan Guaranty to 19.1 per cent of Chase Manhattan and 19.1 per cent of Citibank.

As rates drop in the coming weeks it is likely that primes will move closer together again. One reason for the disparity is the general uncertainty about the speed and precise timing of the interest falls.

Most people have been surprised by how soon United States rates started to fall back after racing to 20 per cent peaks very quickly this year.

The drop in interest rates, combined with worries about Iran, have weakened the dollar considerably. Yesterday exchanges marked the

down a little further, despite some American Central Bank support.

Two smaller banks moved their primes down to 18.1 per cent yesterday—the First National of St Louis and the Boarman's National Bank of St Louis.

West German bankers agree the German Federal Bank will probably not raise leading German interest rates when its central bank council meets today.

There are no indications yet from the Federal Bank that a cut in discount from its current seven per cent is in the offing.

Money market sources said banks were pressing the Federal Bank to ease recurring liquidity shortages, preferably by a cut in minimum reserve requirements.

In London the dollar rallied from an early 1.7865 to 1.8045/50 to the Deutsche Mark before settling at 1.8015. This was a net gain on Monday's 1.7980 against the mark. Other Europeans: Sterling fell to 2.2700 (after reaching 2.2835), about 1 cent down on its overnight level of 2.2835 in dollar terms, while closing prices showed sterling was 0.5 p off at 73.2 against a basket of currencies. Elsewhere, the yen strengthened considerably. Yesterday the dollar

241.10) against the dollar.

\$500m loan package to rescue US bank

Continued from page 1

more than \$900m in government securities and similar long-term fixed interest bonds, financed by short-term loans and deposits. The cost of financing these securities has spiralled with the recent increase in interest rates.

That problem became more acute in recent weeks as the Federal Reserve Board's credit squeeze forced interest rates even higher, culminating in the recent 20 per cent prime rate. The possibility of a recession in the next few months increased the threat of bad debts and added to the bank's troubles.

Mr Butler said that because they were caused by high interest rates the bank's problems were short-term. The financing would be available to keep afloat until interest rates returned to more normal levels and its bond portfolio matured.

Both Mr Butler and Mr Irvine Sprague, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, insist that the difficulties arise from the

bank's loss of earnings, not a deficiency of assets caused by bad loans.

Mr Sprague also insists that it is an isolated case and not the forerunner of more failures. He expects 10 to 12 banks will run into difficulties this year, which is about average. "We don't project additional significant problems," he said.

Other sources in the United States feel that the difficulties in the banking system lie deeper.

First Pennsylvania's problems

had been made worse by recent attention to the bank's difficulties and caused a loss of confidence among depositors, Mr Butler said.

A report that the FDIC auditors had recently spent a month in the bank, coupled with publicity that federal banking regulators were assembling an aid package for a major bank, had been particularly damaging.

Financial Editor, page 21

Continued from page 1

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Unigate bids £11.3m for Clifford's Dairies

By Ronald Pullen

Unigate, the dairy products and food group, is planning to spend £11.3m on the 22.75% it raised from the sale of its creameries to the Milk Marketing Board last year on expanding its liquid milk interests.

The group announced yesterday a £11.3m takeover bid for Clifford's Dairies, the last remaining independent quoted dairy in the United Kingdom. The offer was quickly rejected by Mr Gordon Clifford, chairman of the Berkshire-based company, as "very unwelcome".

Unigate is offering one of its shares for each of the non-voting "A" shares which make up more than four-fifths of Clifford's issued capital, and an extra 15p for each of the voting shares. It is a cash offer and 11p per cent for the voting shares, a premium of more than 40 per cent on the overnight price.

Clifford's ordinary shares jumped 25p to 120p after the news and the "A" shares 21p to 101p, while Unigate eased 1p to 113p.

Financial Editor, page 21

There is also an unusual condition that the bid will only go ahead if Clifford's agrees to drop its plans to raise £1.5m in its right issue. Unigate complained that it had ample resources to meet Clifford's cash requirements and that it did not want to confuse shareholders.

If the bid is successful, it will improve Unigate's geographical spread in the Berkshire and Oxfordshire areas, boosting its share of the United Kingdom milk market by about 2 per cent to around 20 per cent.

Unigate at present holds 3.9 per cent of the ordinary shares in Clifford's and 5.1 per cent of the non-voting shares.

The directors of Clifford's control almost a quarter of the voting shares, and yesterday claimed that they could count on family and friends for another third of the shares.

Financial Editor, page 21

Chancellor stresses need for lower pay settlements to help industry

By Caroline Atkinson

The Government's monetary targets are not compatible with the high level of pay settlements over the last year, according to Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

He told the chamber of commerce in Milton Keynes yesterday that he regarded it as one of the gloomiest economic forecasts of the year.

Mr Charles Wallace, chairman of the CBI, Scottish industrial trends panel, said in Glasgow yesterday that he regarded it as one of the gloomiest economic forecasts of the year.

Exports prospects for Scotland appeared to be brighter than for the rest of the United Kingdom. These included chemicals and petroleum products as well as whisky.

Financial Editor, page 21

success. There was no quick or easy solution to Britain's economic problems and the Government must continue its policy through the life of this Parliament.

Government critics were also attacked yesterday by Mr Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury. He described as "perhaps the ultimate lunacy in economic forecasting" the annual report of the Cambridge economic policy group.

These economists, headed by Mr Wynne Godley, are the main proponents of import controls for Britain.

Mr Lawson emphasized the Government's determination to stick to its strategy.

The Chancellor had pointed out that the medium term financial plan, published with the Budget, aims to concentrate on what the Government could do rather than on trying to plan what others should do.

The Government could control the scale of public spending and the growth in the money supply and it must do the latter to bring down inflation.

For the second time in two days, Sir Geoffrey appeared to express regret about the Clegg comparability awards for public sector pay. He said yesterday that the Government had to pick up some postdated cheques from the last Government's pay policy.

Both Treasury ministers yesterday rejected suggestions that there was a workable alternative economic policy.

The Chancellor said that the old ideas of demand management had failed as recently as 1978-79 when a big boost to demand led to a sharp rise in imports rather than in home production.

He also rejected import controls, saying that they did not make sense for a nation which exports a third of its output.

Mr Lawson said that economics was about markets which, by their nature could be neither reliably predicted nor finely tuned.

Economic "mumbo-jumbo" such as that of Mr Wynne Godley should be paid less attention.

The executive was instructed to take the "strongest possible action" including a ballot for industrial action in areas and branches outside the geographical area of branches concerned—if the branches tried to introduce new opening extensions.

This motion, from the union's Manchester branch, was heavily cut by the conference, which removed a section concerning the executive for "complete disregard of union policy" and for not opposing extensions in opening hours.

The union which has 130,000 members, has accepted a new future government incomes policy, provided that price and dividends were controlled, that it was equitable for all groups of employees, and any attempt to introduce late

economic policy.

houses, at an average purchase price of £32,530 compared with the £32,440 paid by top management and professionals.

The self-employed also borrowed the smallest percentage of the cost of the property. Advances averaged 32 per cent, much lower than the next recorded average advance of 46 per cent, offered to junior and middle management, and the top 64 per cent offered to those in the service industries.

Even if their wives do not contribute financially to the mortgage, the self-employed, top management and professional groups having the strongest belief in the husband being the sole owner of the property?

It can, of course, be argued that building societies tend to look upon the self-employed with a slightly more jaundiced eye; they require evidence of three years' accounts, the official version presented to the Inland Revenue, and rarely take into account future prospects.

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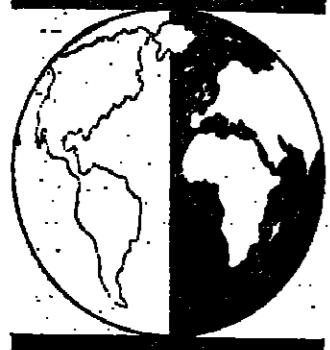
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Zimbabwe not to nationalize mines

Fears the Zimbabwean mining industry may have had about nationalization by the government of Mr Robert Mugabe were allayed this week by Mr Maurice Nyangumbo, the Minister of Mines.

He said the government's policy was to encourage private investment of mining to generate increased production and increased production for more profits. This would in turn generate more employment and improve the workers' salaries and working conditions.

The minister said, however, that while encouraging free enterprise in the mining industry, the government expected companies to step up training of Africans so that they could move into top engineering, technical and managerial posts.

The minister commanded the mining companies which had launched their own training schemes for Africans and increased their minimum wages. He mentioned in particular Rio Tinto and Lonrho for their training schemes in two mines. These and Anglo American are the main mining companies in Zimbabwe.

Norway's oil outlook

Norway's annual offshore oil revenues may reach between \$50,000m and \$100,000m crowns (\$4,500m to \$9,000m) by the end of the century, Mr Arne Enevold, economic adviser to the minister of finance, told an oil seminar in Oslo.

Iraqi production

Speaking in Paris Mr Tayeb Abdul-Karim, the Iraqi oil minister, forecast a world oil shortage, but said Iraq would increase its production according to world market demands.

Swedish deficit widens

The Swedish government says it expects its 1980 trade deficit to widen to 7,060m crowns (about £735m) from the January estimate of 4,500m crowns.

Hopes of agreement to end expensive disputes on big building sites

Smoothing the path of construction

Proposals for a national working agreement aimed at ending labour disruption, delays and soaring costs on large engineering construction sites are expected to be put before the trades unions soon.

An agreement covering basic pay and conditions is seen by the Government as crucial if long-running labour problems on large sites, such as power stations and petrochemical complexes, are to be overcome.

Poor performance on site has cost clients, including many in the public sector, thousands of millions of pounds, and was given as the reason for the Central Electricity Generating Board's decision to abandon work on the Isle of Grain power station after about £450m had been spent.

Efforts to produce a national agreement were started after reports by the National Economic Development Office more than 10 years ago. Progress has been slow but events in the next few weeks should determine whether the many hours of talking will succeed.

Mr Norman Singleton, independent member of the provisional negotiating committee established by unions and employers, said yesterday that union reaction was likely to determine the fate of the present proposals. "There have been false dawns before. Progress, I know, has been frustratingly slow but I believe we are approaching the crunch."

The national agreement, actively supported by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, would seek to remove many potential sources of dispute from local, haphazard bargaining.

In the past, disparities of pay and conditions, both between sites and between

different groups of workers on the same site, have been a major cause of ill-feeling and frustration. It has led to leapfrogging pay settlements, and inter-union disputes, all of which have blighted performance on CEGB power station sites.

Mr Singleton fears that the controversy over the Isle of Grain, where work stopped after a long dispute involving only 27 liggers, may have exacerbated feelings. But he remains optimistic that an agreement can be reached and that it will go a long way towards ending the anarchy that has developed on some sites.

The complexity of relations on site, where several contractors may be working at one time, is reflected by those off site, and this has consistently frustrated attempts to reach agreement.

Two employers' organizations—the Oil and Chemical Plant Constructors Association and the Engineering Employers Federation—each with different traditions, structures, methods of organizing their workforces and different pay settlement dates, have to be classified that their interests are well served.

Some unions are involved, five of them for skilled workers and two general. Inter-union relations have never been easy and, if anything, have been complicated by the Isle of Grain dispute. This has raised the possibility that the nine-month strike by liggers (members of the General and Municipal Workers' Union) could be broken with the support of other unions.

The liggers' action has been condemned by both the electricians' union (EEPUT) and the Constructional Engineering Union. Any agreement struck between unions and employers must be accepted by the industry's clients, who will have an

important role to play in ensuring that it is adhered to.

In the past clients have not escaped criticism for having bought their way out of trouble and undermining existing agreements. Both public and private clients, who are loosely organized in an informal industry body have had to be consulted at each step along the tortuous path to an agreement.

Late last year a working party produced a report setting out basic such as the composition of a committee to administer an agreement, its scope and various other procedures and disciplinary arrangements.

Since then the employers' organizations have taken it to their members, under the watchful eye of the Government. They made some amendments, it is understood, and the agreed report has been passed on to the clients for comment.

When it comes back, probably in the next few days, it will be put before the unions. Mr Singleton hopes that the "package" on offer will not differ too greatly from the original report produced

by the industry's clients, who will have an

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Maintaining mineral owners' rights

From Mr L. H. Snelling

Sir, The Mining Association of the United Kingdom has for many years striven for action to make it easier for mineral operators with the necessary financial and technical resources to obtain licences to explore for possible mineral deposits.

As Sir Peter Kent and Sir Kingsley Dunham have pointed out in the letter which you published on April 22, great and often insuperable difficulties

can arise where the owners of mineral rights cannot be found or where putative owners can

not establish their rights.

L. H. SNELLING, Secretary, The Mining Association of the United Kingdom, 40 Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1AJ.

April 24.

PO telephone service

From Mr M. P. R. Hamer

Sir, It is sad to see that, in its reply to its critics, the telecommunications feature of the Post Office has repeated the mistake of the previous week when it responded to the Monopolies Commission report in a somewhat arrogant fashion. In this latest response the Post Office shows its attitude to be very wide of the mark from the marketing-oriented approach which its senior management have been promising us for the last few months.

Although it is true that the PO allows licensed supply of some items of equipment to the customer, the procedure for achieving this is long and bureaucratic and the result often comes too late to benefit the key business users, particularly when an attempt is made to initiate it from a local telephone area level.

(More sophisticated users know that they have to go straight to PO headquarters to make any progress.) And in any case, the PO has generally refused to allow the use of products which directly compete with its own, even when there are outrageously long delays in

getting hold of the PO items.

This is particularly the case with small PABXs, where delays of at least a year are normal. This has had a crippling effect on many businesses.

A similar situation exists with regard to certain key products needed for data communication and this, too, has been very damaging to many businesses, particularly those on whom the future of this country would seem to depend.

We know that the Post Office is contemplating various reforms that will go some way in dealing with some of the inadequacies as seen by business customers. However, until these reforms have been put into effect and have directly impacted the business community on a day-to-day basis, the Post Office has no right to respond to valid and well-informed criticism in such an arrogant manner.

M. P. R. HAMER, Committee Member, Telecommunications Users' Association, 37 Stamford Street, London SE1.

The most arrogant part of the PO response was the suggestion that business customers

should not be interested in the exchange rate.

If *The Times* wants to lower

the exchange rate, there is a simple way out of the logical

Public spending and the

Budget deficit should be in-

creased and inflation

should be reduced. Better still,

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objectives frankly and in

public.

The announcement of these

polices would cause the pound

to drop precipitously, perhaps

by 10 per cent in a day. Does

The Times really favour such

polices or that outcome?

TIM CONGDON, L. Messel & Company, Winchester House, 100 Old Broad Street, London, EC2.

April 23.

Interest rates and sterling

From Mr Tim Congdon

Sir, In your editorial (April 23) you recommend that the Government reduce domestic credit expansion so that "it can cope with upward pressure on the exchange rate without putting its money supply targets at risk".

The thought here seems to be that the lower the domestic credit expansion, the higher is the permissible foreign exchange intervention to hold the pound down while still remaining within a given money supply target.

In an arithmetical sense this is correct, although difficult to reconcile with your observations three paragraphs earlier that intervention "can only deal with very short term pressures" and "risks generating yet more liquidity which will further fuel international inflation".

In a causal sense, however, it is a total confusion.

Any policy to reduce domestic credit expansion is also a policy to reduce the rate of money supply growth, and the fewer pounds there are, the higher will be their price in terms of other currencies. It follows that the more rigorously domestic credit expansion is restricted, the higher will be the restricted rate. Intervention will reduce exchange rate appreciation, but only by increasing the quantity of pounds (ie the money supply).

If domestic credit expansion is to be reduced, an increase in interest rates is one of the Bank of England's principal weapons. Indeed, the theme of monetary policy in 1979 was the need to make borrowing more expensive, and curb credit growth to companies and individuals.

The result was that interest rates in Britain became attractive compared to those elsewhere and were largely responsible for the revaluation of sterling. But it would have been untenable for the Bank to have set interest rates, which simultaneously restricted domestic credit expansion and depressed the exchange rate.

It would be desirable if, as your leader suggests, "the level of interest rates required on domestic grounds could be the same as those required for foreign exchange grounds". The only drawback to this proposed combination is that it is quite impractical.

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April 23.

Weight of annual reports

From Mr S. Gibbs

Sir, Mr M. F. Simons' letter on the weight of various annual reports (April 23) could be misleading since the weights he quotes exclude the weights of the envelopes. Our recent reports have been dispatched in plastic covers which are not

only cheaper than conventional

envelopes but, because they

are far lighter, save postage.

STEPHEN GIBBS,

Chairman, Turner & Newall Limited,

29 Curzon Street,

London W1Y 7AE,

April 23.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

The rescue of First Penn

American banks have been badly hurt by high interest rates. The \$500m rescue operation for First Pennsylvania arranged by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation—the statutory body for the protection of depositors—and a group of 22 commercial banks led by Citibank, show the potential seriousness of the situation. The rescue will avert the inevitable panic on money markets that would have followed a major failure.

The authorities in fact acted because of worries about similar problems with other financial institutions and presumably with a sort of problems which have arisen in the silver market recently very much in mind. First Penn is no toddler, and it would have been a major casualty.

It is the country's 23rd largest bank with a balance sheet total of some \$8,500m, and shareholders' funds in the last balance sheet of \$350m. It operates some 69 banking offices involved in banking and consumer finance, leasing and mortgages. Problems point to the wider implications for the whole system.

Most banks and finance institutions have suffered from high interest rates because my guess was wrong how rates would go. It is not altogether surprising when even Harry Kaufmann, the guru of the American business, did not expect prime rates to climb above 16 to 17 per cent.

As with other institutions First Penn made a mistake of lending too long and borrowing too short. In other words it mismatched assets and liabilities, the kind of thing Bank of England's paper on liquidity is trying to avoid for example. In addition it took on too much bad business and eventually ran into a cash crisis.

No one can tell at this stage how wide the problem is. It is clear from first quarter results that many other banks got interest rates calculations wrong—even bank reported earnings down by a third. Up to recently American banks did need to face high rates and high inflation and have yet to adjust to this. The stumbling block has been the welter of state laws which prevent market forces operate fully on banking because of ry and other laws.

last month Congress passed, overriding legislation allowing for higher rates and it abolished the regulation Q which limited interest paid to depositors. More and the United States system is beginning to resemble our own.

last week, when I wrote about a gold-backed Eurobond, I suggested it was a pity it was no oil-backed bond. Interim, Mexican International Bank, now insures me that Mexico has been issuing such for the past three years and that the issue is to be redeemed this week at per cent.

The idea is spreading. Semirara Coal Corporation, based in the Philippines, plans a mestic issue of 16 per cent convertible preference shares which after four years will be converted into . . . 33 tons of coal.

MAC
through the
top

he space of a year Tarmac's new top management team seems to have closed a ability gap which at one stage looked tearing the group apart at the seams. Profits up 43 per cent at £38m are fully above best market expectations, the the sheet looks strong enough to right issues rumours, and the switch Wright from "interim" to permanent chairman seems to underline the that management turmoil is now a g of the past.

he prime beneficiary of new tighter financial controls has been building profits where a 7 per cent sales improvement been turned into profits more than doubled at £10m, helped by a good year on refinery side and loss elimination on ice.

it at the same time quarry products lifted volume marginally and profits 5 per cent to £22m in fairly difficult conditions, while the international division seen a £2m swing into the black for a £1.3m. Here withdrawal from ria underlines the speed with which

Tarmac has moved to reverse the policy which took the group almost disastrously into overseas markets at the tail-end of the construction boom.

The policy now is to stick to cautious development and hold overseas exposure to under 10 per cent of the total.

There are still problems: construction profits dived from £3.5m to £1m, mainly as a result of public sector housing losses an area from which Tarmac has now withdrawn after joining McAlpine in slating dilatory authorities over payment.

The group is however surprisingly relaxed about private housing after a year in which profits rose 55 per cent to £9.7m despite a sticky third quarter. With a two-year land bank the group plans to put on volume this year and hopes that the mortgage picture will brighten.

Given the generally dull outlook, a fully-taxed p.c. of 7.3 and yield of 8.2 per cent looks about right, especially as the shares up 12p to 240p yesterday have already had a good run.

But Tarmac may not have to tighten the screws much to lift profits more than 10 per cent this year and a balance sheet showing debts of £35m representing only 28 per cent of shareholders' funds could justify further support given the right market mood.

Unigate (Clifford's) Spending its cash

By adding the rider that it will only go ahead with its £11.3m bid if Clifford's Dairies drops its plans for a rights issue, Unigate seems to be offering this fiercely independent family-controlled group a ready-made line of defence. Certainly Clifford's lost no time yesterday in making it perfectly clear that it had no intention of abandoning its rights plans and did not welcome Unigate as a suitor. And there the matter rests until next week's extraordinary general meeting to approve the increase in the authorized share capital.

As one of that rapidly dwindling band of companies with a non-voting share structure, Clifford's is a tough nut to crack. With the directors speaking for around 24 per cent of the voters and able to count on the support of family and friends controlling perhaps further 35 per cent, Unigate will have to play heavily on the Clifford's board's responsibilities to the other 2,000 or so non-voting shareholders.

No doubt the terms of the offer have been pitched in this light with a 40 per cent premium on the overnight price and around a fifth better than net asset value although an exit p.e. ratio of 10 fully-taxed is less generous in the light of its good profits record. And Unigate is arguing strongly that the recent rights announcement points to difficulties in financing the development of the business, though again the latest balance sheet shows no particular gearing difficulties.

For Unigate the bid is small beer, though it will improve its geographical spread in liquid milk and there should be some distribution economies for dairy products. What the City, however, is really looking for is more tangible signs that Unigate will invest wisely the £87m it raised from the sale of its creameries to the Milk Marketing Board.

● **March and McLennan has finally managed to get its bid terms before shareholders four-and-a-half months after the initial approach. Foreign exchange and Wall Street gyrations may yet cause some headaches for the Americans but at current rates the bid is 167p a share and looks assured of success.**

Given that Bowring shareholders will also receive a 4.53p net dividend the group's share price of 153p could provide a little scope for professional dealers. However, the London market is not yet completely convinced that the terms will not be weakened by a further fall in the Marsh share price.

Marsh has reiterated its intention to sell off Singer & Friedlander, probably in a deal involving the present management, if it seems certain its accepting house status is threatened. But it has promised that hiving off moves will stop at Singer. All that is left is for Marsh to secure a London quote and the Americans will have truly arrived. And Lloyd's and the London insurance market will never be quite the same again.

There are lessons in these examples for industry at large, for such an approach to safety planning should be applied to many other industries. An information and advisory service on safety is provided by the UKAEA Safety and Reliability Directorate, through its industry-wide international

For several years now, the

disaster at the nuclear plant at Three-Mile Island is likely to cost \$500m to put right. But no member of the public nor of the operating staff was killed, nor were they subjected to radiation in excess of statutory limits. It has been called a miracle that the disaster was contained in this way.

In fact, in spite of a series of malfunctions of equipment and operator errors, it was through a concept of defence in depth, and not a miracle, that the worst was avoided. This approach to safety was inherent in the design of the plant, which embodied a series of overlapping safety operations that functioned one after the other, coming into action as needed.

In one chemical plant overseas a high temperature alarm went unnoticed. An extra trip device was poorly sited and this, too, did not trigger off the necessary operator action. Eventually an explosion blew out one of the remaining walls; but fortunately it was a "soft" wall, specially designed to be the first to go which directed the blast away from the plant to a wasteland area kept as a "cordon sanitaire" to avoid casualties.

The cause of the overheating was discovered to be failure of the agitator, and from then on, apart from re-siting the temperature signals in a more obvious position, a "loss of agitation" detector was fitted. The detector was air-operated and designed to go into action if the pneumatic system failed.

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In one chemical plant overseas a high temperature alarm went unnoticed. An extra trip device was poorly sited and this, too, did not trigger off the necessary operator action. Eventually an explosion blew out one of the remaining walls; but fortunately it was a "soft" wall, specially designed to be the first to go which directed the blast away from the plant to a wasteland area kept as a "cordon sanitaire" to avoid casualties.

The cause of the overheating was discovered to be failure of the agitator, and from then on, apart from re-siting the temperature signals in a more obvious position, a "loss of agitation" detector was fitted. The detector was air-operated and designed to go into action if the pneumatic system failed.

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De Beers has maintained its position as leader of the diamond industry but it is today much more than a diamond mining company

Extracts from Mr H F Oppenheimer's statement

The year 1979 was in some respects a difficult one for the diamond trade and the Company's results were, in the circumstances, very satisfactory. The Group's net attributable profit at R742 million was virtually the same as in 1978. The composition of the profit was, however, markedly different in that the diamond account, at R831 million showed a reduction of R125 million as compared with 1978, whereas interest and dividend revenue at R312 million as compared with R234 million showed an increase of R78 million and tax and lease payments to the State at R355 million were R50 million lower partly as a result of higher capital expenditure. The reduction in the diamond account is due partly to higher working costs and partly to the fact that there were less sales by The Diamond Corporation from old stocks held at low prices. In the main the increased revenue from investments reflects higher dividends from our major shareholdings in Anglo American Corporation and AECI as well as larger dividends from our trade investment in De Beers Botswana Mining Company. In these circumstances and in spite of difficult trading conditions a good start has been made in 1980 and deferred dividends were raised from 65 cents to 72.5 cents per share. Net current assets at 31st December 1979 after providing for the dividend amounted to R7.8 million.

The book value of the Group's investments and long-term loans increased during the year by R22 million to R734 million. The value of these investments and loans, was R2.34 million as compared with R1.973 million last year. After deducting those foreign loans that have been used for investment purposes and allowing for minority interests the total value of net investments, loan levy at R121 million and net current assets attributable to De Beers at 31st December was R3.011 million or 82.7 cents per deferred share as compared with 53.1 cents the previous year.

Market conditions

Throughout 1979 the demand for diamonds of one carat in weight and upwards remained strong and this has continued in 1980. Two price increases for large diamonds were readily absorbed by the market. The demand for the small sizes of diamonds however has been and remains weak. At the beginning of this year some improvement in market demand overall made itself felt but the rise in interest rates to unprecedented levels is likely to create increasing financing problems in the cutting centres where the holding of stocks has become extremely expensive and, as a result the position has become more uncertain. Market conditions for the rest of the year will obviously depend to a large extent on developments in the American economy and we expect the weakness in the demand for small sizes to continue. In spite of these difficulties sales by CSO have so far been higher than last year and it looks as though the current level of sales is likely to be maintained for the rest of the year.

The market for industrial diamonds remained firm throughout the year. However a reduction in the supply of natural industrial diamonds has forced a substantial swing away from natural to synthetic diamond in this field. Our industrial division was able to adapt itself successfully to these conditions and major expansion programmes are underway at the Group's synthetic diamond factories. The industrial diamond market continues to expand and we are well placed, both technically and commercially, to take advantage of this situation.

Diamond production by the Group amounted to 13,985,000 carats as compared with 11,995,000 carats in 1978. Of the increase of 1,990,000 carats the Orapa mine in Botswana accounted for 1,637,000 carats and there was a substantial increase of 475,000 carats from Namqualand. The CDM production at 1,653,000 carats was down by 240,000 carats and further reductions in the



THE CENTRAL SELLING ORGANISATION and the diamond industry

Most of the world's rough diamonds pass through the London offices of the Central Selling Organisation (CSO). A group of specialist diamond marketing companies associated with De Beers, the CSO is effectively a producers' co-operative.

Substantial financial resources invested with technical and administrative expertise enable the CSO to provide the best outlet for producers' diamonds whatever the size or demand. These diamonds, which include De Beers' own production, are sold by the CSO at a rate the market will allow.

On arrival in London the rough diamonds are sorted and valued into some 3,000 different classifications by size, shape, colour and quality. Over 400 specially trained staff are assisted by computer-linked machines developed by the CSO, although the more intricate preparations necessitate individual hand-sorting.

Industrial diamonds are sold separately while the rough gems are offered for sale in lots a year at a time. Before each sale the clients — from the cutting centres — submit their requirements which are matched by the CSO as far as possible. It has long been recognised that fluctuating economic conditions are the cause of the cyclical movement in demand for rough diamonds, thus the CSO's matching of supply with demand helps to ensure market stability. Rough diamonds for which there is temporary no call are held in stock.

On reaching the cutting centres the diamonds undergo the highly skilled techniques of cutting and polishing before being sold to wholesalers and jewellery manufacturers and finally arrive at the retail jeweller. De Beers maintains international promotional activities for diamond jewellery.

Other investments

A feature of the accounts is the massive investments of De Beers in companies outside the diamond industry, and the important income which we derive from these diversified sources. During the year the book value of listed investments increased by R202 million which is largely accounted for by the acquisition of an additional 5 per cent in the capital of Anglo American Corporation, and an increase in our interest in Minerals and Resources Corporation (Minoro). Anglo American published excellent interim results and substantially increased its interim

dividend. There is every reason to expect that its final accounts for the year will prove equally satisfactory. The interests of Minoro are for much the greater part outside South Africa, especially in North America and our investment in this growing company provides a desirable measure of diversification in our holdings. Minoro has interesting prospects before it which will be actively pursued. By

the year end we had acquired an interest of just under 5 per cent in Consolidated Gold Fields Limited and after the year end we increased this interest to approximately 25 per cent and sold half of the total to Anglo American.

Consolidated Gold Fields which is based in Britain is a widely diversified and efficiently managed company with important interests in Britain, South Africa, the United States and Australia. This large investment in Consolidated Gold Fields will further strengthen and diversify our portfolio.

While the outlook for the diamond industry is not without its problems, the whole is not without its problems, and together with our growing diversified holdings in other businesses gives good reason for expect satisfactory results for the present year. De Beers has successfully maintained its position as leader of the diamond industry but it is today very much more than a diamond mining company. It has therefore a much more greater solidity than ever in the past.

De Beers

De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited

De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited
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For the full Report & Accounts for 1979 including the Chairman's Statement, please send this coupon to:
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FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Takeover bids help to enliven equities

The new account continued to be dominated by the oil and gas sectors, but yesterday's market was livened by a crop of takeover bids and the reaction to Iranian claims that American planes had fired on their fighters.

After fluctuating around £10m for the past five years, profits in two months from Renold—the gears and transmission group—are expected to fall to between £6m to £7m before tax for the year to March. Lantech, a scarcely credible 21.8 per cent assuming the final is cut. According to one analyst, Renold will probably pay it, even so, given the ever dull prospects; most analysts are recommending sales.

The market opened firm with investors paying particular attention to British Government stocks where falling American interest rates and the strength of the pound lead to advances in the longer-dated stock of £1 in the morning. These gains were held throughout the day, though no further advances were made. Even the Iranian-American air skirmish failed to damp enthusiasm at lunchtime, though trading was light, and they closed at the same £1 better on the day. Shorts also saw £1 gains, though by the afternoon the prices were closing slightly off a top.

Mining shares dipped, once again with a \$1 fall in the lid price to \$513.5 in the

afternoon, and a small rise in New York when the markets opened, failed to boost the London shares.

At the close the FT Index was slightly off its top lunchtime level at 436.7—4.6 up on the day.

For the second day running blue chip stocks were forced to follow a lead set by the oil pitches and the gilt dealers. ICI received attention because of its North Sea interests, but finished unchanged at 362p, as did Glaxo at 198p. Beecham at 118p and Courtaulds at 66p were also unchanged, but BAT Industries, with results due next 5p to 231p. Pilkington added 2p to 203p and Unilever dipped by the same to 416p. Fisons gained 5p to 284p.

George Ewer, the Grey-Green catches people, returned from suspension 2p down at 47p, after paying £1.24m for privately-owned Eastern Trac-

tors Holdings. Fine Arts Developments made a 14m bid for Wills Bros and lost 3p to 551p, while Wills rose 3p to 554p. During the day Clifford's Druries forged ahead by 28p to 120p, with the "A" shares showing a 21p improvement at 101p while its directors said that the Unigate takeover approach was welcome. Unigate eased 1p to 113p. A 46 per cent growth in profits gave Tarmac a 12p spurt to 340p, but Alpine Holdings slipped 8p to 93p on the warning about current trading. Disappointing profits also left Petrocan 9p down to 18p.

In timber, bid favourite Mallinson-Denby fell back by 2p to 691p while Montague L. Meyer gained the same amount to 102p. Owen Owen continued to rise steadily, going from 125p to 133p while Elys of Wimbledon, in which it has a near 30 per cent stake, finished 17p up at 157p.

Latest results

Company	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Alpine Mfgs (F)	33.17(25.1)	2.76(1.92)	11.79(8.43)	2.98(1.42)	4/7	2.26(2.76)
Ac Belmon Inst (F)	—	0.73(0.69)	—	—	—	—
Border & S Stock (F)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bunzl Pulp (F)	220.0(206.0)	0.35(0.22)	12.71(12.8)	2.28(2.10)	1/2, 2/2, 2/29	6.57(5.48)
English Nat Inst (F)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lake View Inst (F)	3.6(2.8)	3.2(2.4)	4.75(3.41)	2.5(—)	—	—
Luis Gordon (F)	12.0(11.2)	0.47(0.18)	8.19(2.85)	1.5(1.0)	20/6	1.51(3.0)
Pochin's (F)	7.3(6.4)	0.25(0.27)	1.12(1.58)	—	—	—
Robert Aspland (F)	13.6(11.11)	0.95(0.701)	12.73(17.33)	5.0(3.0)	1/2, 2/2, 2/29	1.15(4.5)
Tarmacs (F)	836.3(752.0)	38.0(26.5)	53.4(26.4)	8.75(6.9)	8.7	13.7(10.9)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. * = Preferred. † = Deferred.

The ever-bubbling oil sector saw large rises after Carles and Alpine announced oil and gas finds and hydrocarbon indications in Hampshire. The share price rose 14p to 117p. International Thomson gained 36p to 410p and stories about the United States West Coast find pushed up Premier 31p to 791p. IC Gas also rose 30p to 794p, while Charterhall gained 4p to 70p. KCA International moved up by the same amount to 71p, but its offshoot Berkeley Corporation dropped back 1p to 135p.

In stores, Boots went up 4p to 187p with results due soon, while House of Fraser gained 2p to 138p as more speculative support came in for the group

battling over its dividend payment. Old shares showed losses of around 50p in a day which reflected the easier bullion price on the other side of the Atlantic. Although there was some Capo and continental buying in the morning, and prices closed at the top, the dealers were able to make little on the market. The Iranian and United States Anglo-American Gold dipped 4p to 70p. The figures included a £359,000 pretax profit, and £57m at sales from the Austrian subsidiary Bunzl & Bisch, which was sold after the year end for £11.6m. Although this was less than book value, Bunzl has had to provide £4.6m to cover the difference in trade receivables and borrowings by £18.7m and the gearing ratio falls from 46 per cent to 10 per cent.

Bunzl's associated company, American Filtration Corporation, owns 10.3 per cent of the ordinary shares.

Second-half drop slows Bunzl

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Second-half profits from Bunzl Pulp & Paper fell by £610,000 because of weakening demand and pressure on margins in the final quarter. After the 22 per cent increase at the interim stage, this left the taxable surplus per cent higher at £13.7m for the year to December 31. Turnover was up by 11 per cent to £230m.

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Luis Gordon profits more than doubled

By Catherine Gunn
Sherry and port shippers Luis Gordon more than doubled its pre-tax profits to £475,000 from £180,000 in 1979, after interest costs of £72,000. The dividend rose by a third, with a gross yield of 3.83 per cent at 56p a share. Trading profits came to £1.2m, against £764,000 in 1978.

Margins on sherry trading, by far the largest of its liquor distribution interests, improved. Sherry accounted for 82 per cent of group sales of £16.1m. This included duty, but excluded VAT on roughly £15m of sales.

Luis Gordon has acted as the United Kingdom agent for Domecq sherrries and now wines, since 1922. Domecq, in turn, owns just over half Gordon's equity.

The group's sherry sales in 1979 rose 8 per cent in value terms—or 60,000 cases—in spite of a virtual static United Kingdom sherry market. More sherry was sold in the United Kingdom through supermarkets than specialized retailers for the first time. Other drinks, including port, Spanish, French and German wines, distributed by Gordon increased their combined sales volume by a quarter.

The first quarter of 1980 went well. The group regarded the March Budget increases in VAT as reasonable. Now it is looking for a fall in interest rates before the pre-Christmas re-stocking season.

Options list decision

The traded options pitch on the Stock Exchange floor has finally decided what stocks to add to the 13 in which contracts are already quoted. P & O and Lonrho are to join the list on May 29, the beginning of new series of options.

The decision has been germinating since the Budget. It has taken time for the Council to decide, because it is thought that it was uncertain whether

Cavenham Inc plans to control Diamond

dm Anthony Hilton
New York
Cavenham Inc, the American unit of Sir James Goldsmith's international food group, is moving to buy control of Mond International Corporation, a huge United States packaging pulp and timber company.

Cavenham might be unwilling to see its shareholding diluted by what it sees as a costly acquisition, analysts on Wall Street noted.

There was speculation, too, that Cavenham had long been considering a bid for Diamond, but would find the combined company too large to swallow. Diamond itself is an attractive asset-rich company with 1.4 million acres of timber. It shocked Wall Street two years ago by revaluing its assets and throwing up a \$400m surplus. But its trading performance has been dull and margins have declined steadily for the past five years.

Roughly one-third of its earnings come from packaging and 56 each from timber and a retailing chain on the West Coast and New England which sells building supplies and wood for construction.

A spokesman for Diamond refused to discuss the Cavenham approach. Efforts to reach Cavenham's lawyer at the number given on the court documents filed on Monday also proved unsuccessful.

Briefly

Bank Base Rates

Bank	17%
ABN Bank	17%
Barclays Bank	17%
BCI Bank	17%
Consolidated Crds	17%
Hoare & Co	17%
Lloyd's Bank	17%
London Mercantile	17%
Midland Bank	17%
Nat Westminster	17%
Prinsen	17%
PSB	17%
Williams & Glyn's	17%
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Company	Price	Change	Dividends	Yield	P/E
99 60 Airsprung Group	.66	—	6.7 10.2	3.9	2.0
50 26 Armitage & Rhodes	31	—	3.8 12.3	8.1	
75 185 Bardon Hill	275	—	13.8 50	—	
80 County Cars Pref	30	—	15.3 19.1	—	
31 63 Deborah Ord	94	—	5.0 53	10.3	
12 88 Frank Horsell	112	—	7.9 7.0	7.0	
29 98 Frederick Parker	101	—	12.8 12.7	4.6	
56 102 George Blair	107	—	16.5 15.4	—	
70 45 Jackson Group	69	—	5.2 7.5	4.1	
33 111 James Burrough	112	—	7.2 6.4	9.8	
10 242 Robert Jenkins	285	—	31.3 11.0	9.1	
24 75 Torday Limited	222	—	14.3 6.4	5.8	
11 70 Twinlock Ord	154	—	0.8 53	3.0	
70 70 Twinlock 12% ULS	75	—	12.0 16.0	—	
23 Unilock Holdings	48	—	2.6 5.4	10.2	
46 Unilock Holdings New	46	—	4.4 4.6	6.2	
42 Walter Alexander	94	—	12.1 6.2	3.2	
136 W. S. Yeates	195	—	—	—	

Accounts prepared under provision of SSAP15



into the 80's

Extracts from the Annual Report and Accounts and the foreword to shareholders by the Chairman, Trevor Holdsworth.

In a year that was bedevilled more than most by adverse circumstances, we achieved a further overall improvement in the Group's financial results in 1979.

The turnover amounted to £1,961 million, an increase of £206 million, and the trading surplus rose £20 million to £116 million.

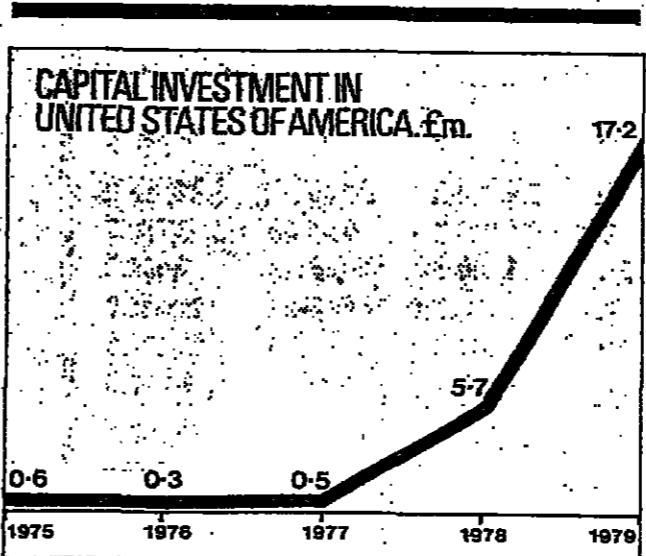
The most serious setback was the engineering unions' industry-wide prolonged strike in the United Kingdom which is estimated to have reduced profits in 1979 by some £15 million.

In the rest of Europe we experienced a strong trading performance, which reflects the benefit of our Continental expansion.

This is seen in the geographical division of our turnover and trading surplus, as follows:

	Turnover 1979 £ million	Surplus 1979 £ million	Turnover 1978 £ million	Surplus 1978 £ million
United Kingdom	1,339	65	1,214	56
Rest of Europe	430	42	394	32
Rest of World	192	9	147	8
Total	1,961	116	1,755	96

Transmissions operations world-wide continued to benefit from the expansion of the production



FINANCIAL NEWS

More talk at
bid for
Owen Owen

By Michael Clark

Further active buying yesterday, in shares of Liverpool-based stores group, Owen Owen again renewed speculation that bid developments may be just around the corner.

The shares rose 8p to 133p yesterday, compared with the group's share price of 114p just over a week ago. This has led to suggestions that the group, which is controlled by the Owen family interests, may have received a bid for its 20 odd stores scattered throughout the country, including the prime Leamington Spa store.

But the main attraction to the group comes with its 29.9 per cent holding in Elys of Wimbledon and Grant Bros (Croydon) in which it holds 15 per cent. Shares of Elys, with assets of over £4 a share, in turn rose 17p to 157p, allowing an 81 per cent increase in dividend to 4.25p a share.

Mr Gulliver reports that Al-

pine Double Glazing is to absorb the costs of starting up a new factory at Tanfield Lea, County Durham, and a further extension of its distribution network. Prices also lagged



Mr James Gulliver, chairman of Alpine Holdings.

behind inflation. Dolphin did outstandingly well.

Dolphin continues to do well, but double glazing has become an industry where the going is tough and one dominated by weak selling from hard pressed small operators. Alpine's sales have fallen sharply.

There is, however, an impression that the chairman is looking ahead with the utmost caution, that he has costs already well in hand and that acquisitions are being sought.

Even so, the fact remains that dear money, falling demand and a mild winter will have hit double glazing hard.

Mr Gulliver placed 750,000 of his shares with institutions last June, but he extended the expiring management contract of his private investment company until January next.

The shares are down from a 1979-80 high of 133p to 93p, or 8p down yesterday on trading fears.

Asked yesterday whether he planned to buy some more Alpine shares, he replied: "It is quite possible. It all depends on the price."

De Beers expects diamond sales to rise

From Michael Prest

Johannesburg

Diamond sales are likely to be higher this year than in 1979, Mr Harry Oppenheimer, chairman of De Beers, says in his latest annual report.

But demand for stones smaller than one carat is still weak and, after a good first quarter, sales for the rest of the year will depend on the American market.

Mr Oppenheimer warns that higher prices in the cutting centres are increasing the buyers' financing problems, thereby adding to the uncertainty of trade conditions.

Production at Consolidated Diamond Mines, the huge property in Namibia, fell by 24,000 carats last year, to 1.65m carats. CDM now pays about 64 per cent of its unrevealed profits, thought to be about Rand 200m, in tax and loan levy to Namibia. The company's contribution to De Beers' Rand 742m profit was down to 18 per cent.

CDM was one of the eight mines out of 13 in the company whose production grades fell last year. The Finch Mine, near Kimberley, is to raise production from 2.5m carats a year, to 4.5m. A Rand 60m expansion programme should be completed within two years.

United Capitals

to pay 20p a share

The board of United Capitals Investment Trust will propose,

at an extraordinary general meeting on May 21, that the company be wound up voluntarily.

The company has been selling investments in listed securities and expects that the net proceeds will enable the liquidator to make cash distributions of more than 20p a share.

Meanwhile, the board hopes that the liquidator will be able to make a first capital distribution of 20p a share within a month of passing the special resolution.

Pochin's foresees healthy workload

Turnover for Pochin's, builders and civil engineering contractors, for half year to November 11, 1979, was £7.3m compared with £6.7m a year earlier. Pre-tax profit was £252,000 against £273,400.

Chairman says that having regard to the economic situation, the board is reasonably satisfied with the results, and forecasts a healthy workload for the immediate future. The interim dividend is held at 1.24p gross.

Danish Bacon hit by poor market

Danish Bacon Company is experiencing the poorest market for its products for some years as high interest rates force major de-stocking by Harris.

customers and indeed general stagnation of business.

The chairman says that the current period would see some emphasis on economies, cost reduction. Offers remain open for acceptance until further notice except that the cash and shares alternative no longer applies.

Reckitt & Colman expect US upturn for acquisition

Mr J. Cleminson, chairman of Reckitt and Colman, says that the problems created by the reorganisation of the board, the board does not predict that it is going to be easy to maintain progress in all the group's markets.

The board confidently expected the North American results to increase from their present low level and that therefore there will be an improvement in overall results.

Accounts show payments to former directors of £70,000 as compensation for loss of office and £46,050 as ex-gratia payments.

Harris Queensway and Henderson-Kenton

The offers on behalf of Harris Queensway for Henderson-Kenton have become unconditional in all respects. Acceptances of the offers on shares in issue prior to the reorganisation of the share capital, have been received in respect of 4.96m ordinary and 1.19m preference, representing 92.8 per cent and 92.9 per cent of the shares not already owned by Harris.

Offer for Hoffnung goes unconditional

Burns Philp's offer to acquire S. Hoffnung, has gone unconditional. Acceptances of the ordinary offer, together with shares acquired and shares agreed to be acquired now total 53.17 per cent of Hoffnung.

Acceptances of the cumulative preference offer represent some 67.6 per cent of Hoffnung's preference capital.

Ford loses \$473m in US as sales fall sharply

The Ford Motor Co yesterday announced a domestic loss of \$473m (about £220m) in the first quarter of this year as sales fell dramatically.

Ford said the loss would have been deeper except for a non-recurring gain of \$91m as a result of a recently approved

tax treaty between the United States and the United Kingdom. In the same period last year the company made a domestic profit of \$220m.

The company did not provide its losses for its North American car operation. Instead, it disclosed that all of its operations

in North America, including its profitable financing unit, posted an after-tax loss of \$495m. Pre-tax figures also were not given.

Car and truck sales in the United States and Canada fell by almost 44 per cent in the quarter to 653,147 units from 1.16m units in 1979.

Mr Philip Caldwell, chairman, said Ford's losses in the United States were caused by high inflation, rising energy costs and other factors.

Outside North America, Ford said its profit slid by 9.3 per cent to \$331m from \$361m a year earlier.

Mr C. R. Harris, an executive director of Commercial Union Assurance, has been made deputy chief general manager. Mr W. E. Evans and Mr B. D. Robertson have been promoted and will retain their titles and responsibilities as general managers. Mr H. B. Gordon has been made assistant secretary of the company.

Mr A. W. Frost has been made chairman of C. E. Heath & Co (Glasgow).

Mr John Haffenden, of David Brown Gear Industries, has been elected to be the first president of the British Marine Equipment Council.

Mr M. G. Moss has gone on to the board of S. Simpson.

Mr G. A. Keeley has joined the board of Yemana Investment Trust.

Mr Anthony Edward Leyland has become a director and deputy managing director of Rusi and Templer Developments.

Mr John P. Gordon, chairman and managing director of

Rowe & Pitman analysts and partners

Rowe & Pitman considers itself "almost uniquely placed" to put United States institutions in the market in Europe, as well as South Africa and the Middle and Far East.

Foreign competition comes from Japanese brokers already established in New York.

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Rowe & Pitman has had a handful of clients in Boston for some time. Their increasing interest in overseas markets triggered the decision to open an office there. Business opens on 13 May. The office will be run by Bostonian Mr Richard Murray, ex-United States trading firm of A. G. Becker-backed up by visiting Rowe & Pitman analysts and partners.

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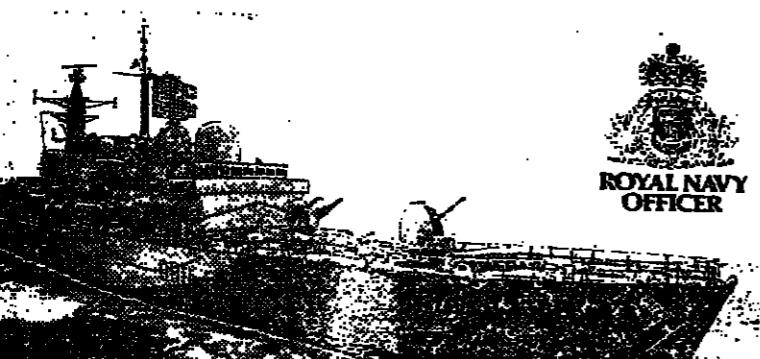
Gilts and oils lead the way

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, April 28. Dealings End, May 9. § Consign Day, May 12. Settlement Day, May 19

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

1979/80 High Low Stock	Price Ch'pence	Int. Gross Red Yield	1979/80 High Low Company	Price Ch'pence	Gross Div Yld % P/E	1979/80 High Low Company	Price Ch'pence	Gross Div Yld % P/E	1979/80 High Low Company	Price Ch'pence	Gross Div Yld % P/E	1979/80 High Low Company	Price Ch'pence	Gross Div Yld % P/E
BRITISH FUNDS														
SHREWSBURY Trust Fund	100	98.70	98.64	104	3.368 15.734	DOM HEDGES	301	7.7 1.6 11.2	METCHELTON	9.8	9.8 4.1	ROTHSCHILD	32	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	94	94.70	94.64	104	3.368 15.734	Douglas & Sons	302	6.4 10.4 2.5	Metheriston D.	9.8	9.8 4.1	SCOT. AMER.	33	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Dowd & Mills	303	6.4 10.4 2.5	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'A'	34	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Dowty Grp	304	6.4 1.5 10.4	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'B'	35	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Drake & Scott	305	6.4 1.5 10.4	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'C'	36	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Dunlop Hldgs	306	5.0 1.4 1.3	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'D'	37	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Duplex Int.	307	2.1 1.4 4.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'E'	38	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Durapine Int.	308	2.1 1.4 4.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'F'	39	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Dykes J. Holdings	310	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'G'	40	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	ERP Hldgs	311	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'H'	41	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Ernest P. Gruen	312	4.9 6.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'I'	42	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Edwards L.	313	12.8	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'J'	43	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	EIS	314	4.4 6.4	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'K'	44	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Electro-M. Rnd	315	6.5 2.5	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'L'	45	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Emmerson Bros	316	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'M'	46	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Arrow	317	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'N'	47	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Admiral Group	318	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'O'	48	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Armen & Ged	319	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'P'	49	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Armen & Ged	320	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'Q'	50	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Armen & Ged	321	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'R'	51	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Armen & Ged	322	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'S'	52	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Armen & Ged	323	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'T'	53	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Armen & Ged	324	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'U'	54	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Armen & Ged	325	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'V'	55	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Armen & Ged	326	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'W'	56	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Armen & Ged	327	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'X'	57	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Armen & Ged	328	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'Y'	58	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Armen & Ged	329	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'Z'	59	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Armen & Ged	330	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'AA'	60	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Armen & Ged	331	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'BB'	61	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Armen & Ged	332	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'CC'	62	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Armen & Ged	333	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'DD'	63	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Armen & Ged	334	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'EE'	64	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Armen & Ged	335	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'FF'	65	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Armen & Ged	336	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'GG'	66	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Armen & Ged	337	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'HH'	67	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90	90.84	103	3.349 15.181	Armen & Ged	338	0.1 1.0 1.0	Metzger & Denby	10.0	10.0 11.1	SCOT. AMER. 'II'	68	13.4 1.6 11.6
SCOT. LIFE Fund	87	90.90</												

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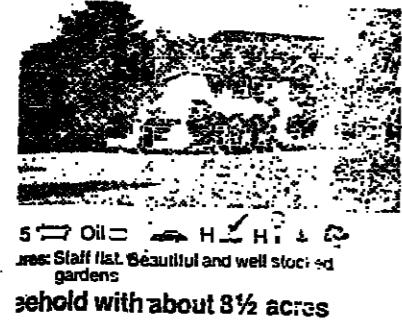
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